



School's Olympic memories.
(See page 3).

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WOMAN IS JAILED FOR KNIFE ATTACK ON HER EX

A DIVORCED wife armed herself with a carving knife and attacked her ex-husband shouting: "Die you b***d" Cardiff Crown Court has heard.**

Fortunately, said prosecutor Michael Jones, the weapon was prised from her hands.

Samantha Denny (41) of Tern Road, Porthcawl, admitted wounding with intent and possessing two offensive weapons.

She denied a charge of attempted murder and it was ordered to be left on the file.

She was sentenced to four years imprisonment and was told by Judge Eleri Rees: "There was no provocation whatsoever, and you entered the house as a trespasser."

Mr Jones said that Simon Denny and his wife had been married 15 years and divorced in 2008.

Since March last year, Mr Denny had the custody of their three children.

On March 12, he was living in Vernon Street, Bridgend, with his partner, Deborah Rees.

The family were watching television and the children were playing outside on a trampoline.

Denny had made a call, saying she wanted to see the children the following day.

Not long afterwards, said Mr Jones, Rees heard the front door opening. Denny was in the hall, holding a large kitchen knife and lunged towards Mr Denny with a stabbing motion, aiming for the centre of his chest.

He tried to take the weapon from her, and she shouted "Die, you b*****d".

Luckily, said Mr Jones, Ms Rees prised the knife from her, and afterwards the defendant was forced outside.

There were shouts for help, and two neighbours assisted.

Sue Ferrier, representing Denny, said: "She came from a very respectable family who have support-

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

ed her and have had to watch her demise.

"Her life began to fall apart and her marriage fell apart."

When she was arrested, the court heard, she smelled of alcohol and was in a distressed state. When she was searched, police found a second knife in her handbag.

The court heard that she told the police: "My mother would have told me I should have killed him."

Mr Denny suffered a wound to his left thumb, which required stitching.

In a statement, Mr Denny said he was in a total state of shock that such an incident could have occurred. He said he wondered what would have happened if he hadn't defended himself.

He said he had nightmares and was "jumping at shadows".

Luckily, he said, the children were oblivious to what had occurred.

Ms Ferrier said the defendant had suffered from a mental disorder and depression, and had received inpatient treatment after making an attempt on her life.

She said she had demonstrated remorse for what was an isolated incident.

At the time, said Ms Ferrier, Denny had entered a downward spiral and turned to alcohol and drugs.

The situation worsened when she became the victim of an attack, and she would sleep with a knife under her pillow.

"She was depressed, suicidal and lonely."

In the past, said Ms Ferrier, she had a reputation for being kind and caring.

"She is now in a position of digging herself out of the pit she found herself in."

She described her as a fragile person, who had found being in custody nothing less than torture.

PORTHCAWL MEN'S MAMMOTH ROUND WALES CHARITY EFFORT



Porthcawl is hit by wave of burglaries

SOUTH Wales Police is appealing for information, and advising the public to be vigilant after a number of burglaries in the Porthcawl area.

A house on Anglesey Way, Nottage, was broken into sometime between 8pm on Sunday, September 9, and 2pm on Friday, September 14.

Intruders took a large quantity of jewellery, including a number of gold chains, gold earrings, silver bracelets and a silver locket, as well as porcelain ornaments.

Intruders also forced entry into two homes on Sandpiper Road, sometime between 6am on Wednesday, September 12, and 1:30pm on Saturday, September 15.

Again, a large amount of jewellery was taken.

Jewellery was also stolen from a house in The Whimbrels, Porthcawl, sometime between 2pm on Thursday, September 13, and 4pm on Friday,

September 14.

A gold Gucci watch, gold bracelets, gold earrings and a number of rings were taken from a house on Skokholm Close between 3pm on Wednesday, September 12, and 2pm on Friday, September 14.

The properties were all unoccupied at the time of the burglaries.

Sergeant David Williams from Porthcawl Police Station said: "I ask members of the community to look out for their neighbours and to report any suspicious behaviour in the area."

"If you're going away, ensure your property is secured and valuables are kept hidden out of sight. Ask a family member, friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your home and check it regularly while you are away."

"I ask anyone who may have information regarding the burglaries, or anyone who noticed any suspicious activity, to contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

ABOVE: Four Porthcawl men recently completed a 'hitch hike around Wales' challenge to raise funds for Help 4 Heroes. The four, Gavin Davies, Richard Wells, Phil Jones and Phil Duckworth, completed the challenge and were welcomed back to Newton Green on Sunday, September 23, where they were met by, among others, Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, and the Porthcawl Town Deputy Mayor, Coun Mike Clarke. Two of the team, Gavin Davies and Richard Wales, escaped serious injury when they were hit by a Landrover when on a slipway. A spokesman said that a final total for their charity efforts had not yet been arrived at. (PHOTOGRAPH by MALCOLM NUGENT).

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AM urges re-think on council's library plans

SHADOW Welsh culture minister Suzy Davies has held talks with members of Bridgend Civic Trust to discuss their views on the future of Bridgend town library.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, has also submitted a series of questions to BCBC about their proposals to move the library from the town centre and incorporate it into Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Civic Trust members told Mrs Davies that while they recognise that the existing library building in Wyndham Street is too small to meet the needs of Bridgend today, they were opposed to it being taken to the Recreation Centre, which is located out of town.

Instead, they would like the council to find an alternative location within the town centre because of the need to retain easy access for bus users.

A proposal from local businessman Nick Hegarty to move the library to The Courthouse building in Derwen Road has met with approval from some Trust members.

Suzy Davies said: "The Civic Trust members I met were of the view that the Recreation Centre was too far out of town for many elderly and disabled people. There is no bus service so users without a car would have quite a walk to reach the new site and this could be a

problem in bad weather, as they would be very exposed.

"By comparison, Swansea Library – which is no longer in the middle of the city – is on a busy, regular bus route.

"More importantly, the Civic Trust believes that the library needs to be in a town centre location to boost trade for surrounding shops and cafes.

"The library brings footfall into the town, which is crucial these days as high streets throughout the country are coming under increasing pressure from out of town shopping malls."

Mrs Davies said that while people loved the listed Edwardian building in which the library is now located, there was an acceptance that it was simply not big enough.

"I understand that disabled access and lifts have been installed to make the building accessible to all, but the fact is that it was built in the days when Bridgend was a small market town with a much lower population.

"Also, libraries have moved away from being simply book repositories and nowadays are expected to provide computer facilities, DVDs and CDs. They are much more multi-purpose.

"I understand what BCBC is saying about the superior facilities that would be provided at the Recreation Centre, but there are strong arguments against moving it out there.

"The council is adamant that this move



Suzy Davies AM outside Bridgend Library with members of the Bridgend Civic Trust.

is not about saving money so, in that case, I hope that they are open to arguments about finding a suitable town centre location.

"The Courthouse, which is the old town police station and court building, could be such

a place. I will be asking officers to investigate this offer to see if it is suitable.

"At the moment, I am keeping an open mind until I have all the facts."

Mrs Davies added: "Unless the council is

prepared to listen to alternative proposals with an open mind the consultation exercise will degenerate into a pointless charade, and that would be a tragedy for the people of the town."

PORHCRAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

A chance to see an Olympic torch!

OUR chairman, Dee Richardson, welcomed everyone to our Harvest Jubilee meeting and from the start, we could see that it was going to be a very colourful afternoon.

Everyone had got into the spirit of the Jubilee and there was a sea of red, white and blue.

We also had a lovely surprise as our chairman had brought in the Olympic torch which her son, Simon, the Paralympic gold medalist, had used to light the flame in Cardiff.

Our thoughts were with our vice-chairman

Shirley Masterman, who had suffered a heart attack recently and sadly would miss all the fun of the meeting, but there was news that she was making a good recovery.

A very enjoyable day was had at the recent visit to Dewstow Gardens with beautiful weather.

The plans for our TG sponsored walk were complete and we were hoping that the sun would shine for us.

The annual coffee morning was held at the Atlantic Hotel and raised £200 for the Mayor's Civic fund and we thank all who attended.

Our arrangements for the Christmas Fayre at the Seabank Hotel on November 23 are well in hand.

Our charities this year are KRUF and Literary Box.

With all our diaries brought up to date, it was time for the party to start. The table was laden

with food and the entertainment was ready.

There were singers and story tellers and we finished off with a sketch and a good time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be on October 10, when we will be entertained by Mr John Hanson who will be explaining the reasons why we need to send refurbished tools to Africa.

This will be at 2pm in All Saints Church Hall and all will be made very welcome.

FREDA ROGERS

Quiz league

HERE are this week's posers:

1. Who wrote the novel 'Lord Jim'?

2. Which artist painted 'Flatford Mill'?

3. Which light-heavyweight boxing world champion was defeated by Floyd Patterson when the vacant heavyweight boxing world title?

4. Who was the actor who took the title roles of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in 1923 and *The Phantom of the Opera* in 1925?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

Answers:
1. Joseph Conrad
2. Constable
3. Archibald Moore
4. Lon Chaney

Planning in the county borough

Bankmachine, Hatfield – Spar, 14 Ewenny Road, Bridgend – Installation of an illuminated sign and retention of an automated teller machine with advert.

Mrs Murphy – Orchard Cottage, Church Street, Porthcawl – Programme of works to several trees including felling, crown lift, copice, etc.

Mr K Day – 5 Heol Ty Nant, Llangeinor – New three bedroom house.

Miss C Austin – Harts Building, Newlands Avenue, Brackla Industrial Estate – Change of use to sports facility/gymnasium.

Mrs Nadine Manfred – 42D Penybont Road, Pencoe – Change of use of commercial property A1 (retail) to D1 (non-residential institution) for physiotherapy clinic.

Mr S Matthews – Lyndhurst, 33 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – Single and two storey extensions to rear and sun terrace/balcony to front elevation.

Mr Nigel Graham – 13 Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl – Single store extension to rear apex/gable end style roof window, set centrally to development.

Mr A Thomas – 24 Pant y Ffynnon, Pencoe – Two storey and single storey additions to side and rear elevations.

Mr and Mrs Nicie – 20 Dan y Bryn, Caerau, Maesteg – Conservatory to side of property.

Laleston Community Council – Unit 1, Tesco Express, Ffordd Tirion, Broadlands – Improve eroded banking to include dwarf wall, raised bed for planing, interpretation board and mesh panels.

Mr Rob Toghill – 6 Waterton Close, Waterton – Proposed play room above existing garage.

Mr Richard Knight – 9 Pen Gwern, Pencoe – Relax standard condition of P/07/854/FUL for further 12 months to erect side and rear extensions.

Heathfields Residential Homes – 27 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Erection of single storey extension.

Mr John Shearan – 5 Lon-y-Parc, Maesteg – Single storey shower room extension for disabled person.

Porthcawl Town Council – Nottage Green, Porthcawl – Install gate at the opening located on Heol y Capel side of the green.

Mr K B and Mrs S H Marlow – 18 Stonechat Close, Porthcawl – Replace existing UPVC conservatory with garden room.

READERS' LETTER

Thanks from councillor

HAVING thought long and hard about my position on Porthcawl Town Council, I decided some weeks ago to resign.

I did this for personal reasons and I must say that I always enjoyed my time with the town council and would like to think that I was effective as a councillor during the five years that I was there.

I want to assure everyone who voted for me in the election, and present members of Porthcawl Town Council, that I have not resigned from 'the town', and will always continue to help with events and charity functions in any way I can, and that I will always support my husband in his continuing council work.

I would like to thank the people who voted for me for their trust and for the many kindnesses they showed me over the past years, Gaynor Newton Williams Porthcawl

COUNCIL IS WASTING MONEY

ONCE again we have Bridgend County Borough Council wasting money.

The road markings on New Road, Porthcawl, are in a terrible state. The pelican crossing white lines are just about visible, what is left of them, yet they seem to have money to renew the yellow road markings on the bus stops!

Considering that service buses have not used new road for a number of years, do they really know what's happening in their own authority? John Clatworthy, Porthcawl

Vote for the veterans' charity

HEALING the Wounds have been named as one of the 24 finalists in the 40th anniversary Persimmon Homes competition and are now in the running a new Persimmon home!

The wonderful prize will enable Healing the Wounds to provide a 'home from home', safe and comfortable environment for the guys and

girls whilst they visit us for support.

For us to be in with a chance to win against so many other worthy causes we need readers to vote for us!

You can vote for Healing the Wounds at <http://40.persimmon-homes.com/vote>. Voting ends at midnight on September 20, but voters can vote every 24 hours.

Thank you for your wonderful support. Carol Richards, Porthcawl.

Share your views with us!

Let us know about what you think about life in the area - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 4)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	05.07	8.7	17.28	9.2
28 Fri	05.55	9.1	18.14	9.6
29 Sat	06.33	9.5	18.55	9.8
30 Sun	07.12	9.7	19.31	9.9
01 Mon	07.47	9.8	20.03	9.8
02 Tues	08.19	9.7	20.35	9.8
03 Wed	08.51	9.6	21.06	9.4
04 Thur	09.20	9.3	21.38	9.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

New epilepsy support group

EPILEPSY ACTION, the UK's largest member-led epilepsy organisation, is launching a coffee and chat group for people with epilepsy in Bridgend.

The first of these meetings will take place today (September 27) from 10.30am to 12.30pm, at Talk of the Town Café, 4A Norton Road, Bridgend.

Ann Sivapatham, Epilepsy Action's Wales manager, said: "The launch of this new group follows the success of a range of support groups and activities already organised by Epilepsy Action Cymru.

"Meeting together over a cuppa to share

experiences is something that is a great support to many people living with epilepsy. It can make a big difference to meet other people who understand where you are coming from and be accepted and understood.

"People will receive information in, and support with, managing epilepsy."

After the launch event, the new coffee and chat group will meet on the last Thursday of the month at 10.30am at the same venue.

If you have any questions, contact Ann Sivapatham on 01633 253407, 07767 242658, or at: asivapatham@epilepsy.org.uk.

CHOIRS SOUGHT

LOCAL school choirs are being sought to appear in a Christmas Gala Concert, A Broadway Christmas, on Thursday, December 6, at St David's Hall in Cardiff, in aid of British Heart Foundation Cymru.

The show will feature songs from Broadway shows with guest celebrities including X-Factor's James Williams and artists from the West End. The show's musical director will be John Quirk.

Contact Sharon Owen on 02920 382408 or email owensh@bhf.org.uk.

Bridgend PACT

BRACKLA PACT meeting will be held at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla today, September 27 at 6.30pm.

MORFA WILD-MILL PACT meeting at The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, October 11 at 6.30pm.

Porthcawl school will always remember the London Olympics

RIGHT (left to right): Dr Yang, Bibi Viazzani, Megan Greenwood and Mrs Carol Clint.

NOW that local schools are 'back in the old routine' one establishment is reflecting on the fact that four members were involved in the Olympics.

Two pupils, one parent – and the headteacher of St John's School, Porthcawl, all played different roles, in the build, during the opening ceremony, and as 'Games Makers'.

Headteacher Mrs Carol Clint and parent Dr Yang were both selected from nearly 250,000 applicants for the much-coveted role of Games Makers.

Pupil Megan Greenwood was chosen as one of the 8,000 torchbearers, and proudly transported her very

own flame through Neath.

Last, but not least, 10-year-old pupil Bibi Viazzani was part of the Only Kids Aloud choir, which sang 'Cwm Rhondda' from a wind-swept Rhossili Bay as part of the opening ceremony.

Mrs. Clint, who worked in the press operations team, helping thousands of reporters from all over the world, was bowled over by the whole experience.

Proudly displaying the specially-engraved silver baton that she was given as a souvenir of her two weeks of volunteering, she is still full of enthusiasm about the whole experience.

"Being a Games Maker is definitely one of the best things I have ever done. It surpassed all expectations and it



was an absolute privilege.

"On event days, I was right by the start and finish lines. I saw some incredible moments of success, first-hand, and spoke to so many fascinating people.

"Everyone was constantly cheerful and enthusiastic – and for once people talked to each other on the trains and tubes!"

An added bonus was that Mrs Clint was also deeply touched by the whole volunteer experience and aims to inspire others to do similar things.

Dr. Yang, a GP who has a daughter at St. John's, was selected to work as a doctor in the Media Broadcast Centre, helping to look after the health of more than 20,000 journalists, broadcasters and photographers.

He said: "The feel-good factor was amazing and totally inspirational, boosted by the fact that, on home ground, the British did so incredibly well".

Dr Yang was also lucky enough to get tickets for the beach volleyball and some swimming events, and spent his first week in London alternating between volunteer duties and watching some historic moments with his wife and daughter.

He was also fortunate to have been at the Olympic stadium for the last night of the athletics competition when Mo Farah won the 5,000 metres and the Jamaican team broke the world record in winning the 4 x 100m relay.

One of the most special moments, however, was a combined case of misfortune and serendipity: "I chipped a

tooth while volunteering and had to call a dentist friend of mine who was working in the Athletes' Village.

"I had wanted to work there, and was very disappointed that this was one part of the Games I wouldn't get to see. After several calls to clear the very tight security, I found myself inside, tooth repaired – and with several hours at the end of my shift to wander round among all the athletes!"

"It was a bit like a first-class holiday resort and lovely to see these top men and women in repose, just wandering around relaxing. The chipped tooth certainly provided a silver lining to the original cloud!"

Year-8 pupil, Megan Greenwood, is still thrilled at having been chosen as one of Britain's 8,000 torchbearers – and one of only two bearers from Porthcawl.

Since carrying the torch along part of Neath's Windsor Road, on May 26, Megan has found herself in great demand, with requests from friends and acquaintances to be pictured with the torch, or simply to hold it.

"I've brought it into school loads of times and lots of the pupils – and staff – have had their pictures taken holding it.

"I feel very privileged that it is mine to keep forever and that I was part of the very early stages of these very special Olympics".

Ten-year-old Bibi Viazzani, a year-6 pupil, was thrilled to be part of the opening ceremony, watched worldwide by an estimated 1 billion people.

Filmed at Rhossili

Open Doors event marks bell's return to St John's House

SINCE the beginning of 2012, more than 500 people have visited St John's House on the monthly open days – supporting the view of the trustees that the house should be preserved for everyone to use and enjoy, and also as an educational facility.

September is a turning point in the Trust's history as we intend using the Civic Trust Open Doors event as a springboard to launch an appeal to purchase the building.

Our target is £150,000. If you know of any person, company or organisation that might give a donation please let us know.

A number of people have indicated that they would like to be associated with the Trust and be active in their support. To this end we are looking at forming a 'Friends' group, and held a meeting to that effect

Wick council
WICK Community Council surgery will be held on **Wednesday, October 3, between 6pm and 7pm in the village hall.**

A community councillor will take notes on any concerns or ideas regarding the village from residents and these will be presented at the next community council meeting.

AM's surgeries
THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding advice surgeries next week.

On Friday, September 28 he will be in the Pencoeed Library from 2pm-3pm. He will then be at Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm-4.30pm. No appointment necessary.

"We have already had an assembly where we passed my commemorative baton all around the school, from the caretakers to the kitchen staff, to show just how important team-work is in any undertaking in life".

on Monday (September 24).

Discussions included how a membership scheme might work.

It was heard how the purchase of the property is progressing and the type of projects we are considering to sustain it after its purchase.

Currently there are 12 of us actively involved. We have come a long way in the last 12 months – just think how much more we could achieve with more help!

For more information, email: sjhbbridgend@live.co.uk.

Ken Hinton
Chair

The bell returns!

IN 1937, a bell was found in the house and was reputed to be of Celtic origin.

St John's House will be open on

September 29-30 as part of the Civic Trust Open Doors event and the bell will be on view by kind permission of the Museum of Wales.

Over that weekend, Meibion y Ddraig/Sons of the Dragon will be demonstrating their archery skills and equipment.

There will be historical games for the children to try and talks on the building and other associated topics. The house will be open 10am-4pm on both days.

Upcoming events
September 29-30 – Open Doors event.

December 8 – Christmas Fayre.
February 1, 2013 – concert with Bridgend Male Voice Choir.

Open days – last Saturday of every month, 11am-3pm.

Night of Harmony promised for fans of Maesteg choir

THE Maesteg-based ladies' choir, Harmony, will hold their fifth annual concert on **Saturday September 29, in Zion Chapel, Maesteg.**

The choir, originally formed in 2006 as an acapella choir, has grown from strength to strength under the musical direction of Wendy Murphy, who also acts as accompanist for the group.

The varied age range of the ladies (from 18-76) is reflected in the style, with songs that suit everyone with a love of music, including classics like 'It Don't Mean a Thing' by Duke Ellington and new chart hits such as Adele's

'Make You Feel My Love'.

Performing with the ladies on the night is local bombshell and singer/songwriter Hannah Grace. Hannah, who has previously won the Dunraven Young Singer of the Year Award, has just started her degree at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and is currently recording her debut album. Her live performances are not to be missed, and you can find her on YouTube for a sneak peek!

The ladies welcome everyone to this exciting evening, with doors opening at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are £6, and can be bought on the night or from Shan White on 01656 739337.

HH

MP's surgery

OGMORE MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, will be holding a surgery in Gilfach Goch on the afternoon of Friday, September 28.

There will be street surgeries, along with a 'drop in' session at the Gilfach Goch Recreation Centre between 3pm and 4pm.

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Arts festival concert brings two maestros together

ON Thursday, September 20, Adam Khan, classical guitarist, and violinist Michael Bochmann, performed in the latest Ewenny Arts Festival concert. The venue was once again the impressive setting of The Priory Church.

A festival spokeswoman said: "The first half focused upon works by JS Bach, with four movements from *Sonata in G Major* followed by three movements from Franz Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata*.

"The combination of the two instruments, violin and classical guitar, proved to be enthralling, creating both two distinct voices and yet a compelling dialogue.

"The second half began with a shift in tone with a number of folk songs, Welsh and other traditional British, before changing once again to encompass the exotic sounds of Argentina, Bolivia and Cuba. Each artist also performed solo pieces.

"Most touching was a debut performance of a piece especially written for Adam by a world famous Latin-American composer. Its haunting

evocation of the effects of advancing years and the relentless passage of time were especially poignant."

Adam Khan was born in Seven Sisters, Neath, and has since given recitals and master classes at leading venues and festivals throughout the world. His most recent solo recording *For the Delight of Shiva*, includes rarely recorded works by English composers Carey Blyton and John Duarte.

He has also recorded a CD with violinist Michael Bochmann that includes works by Bach, Fernando Millet, Stephen Goss and Gerald Garcia.

Michael Bochmann was brought up in Turkey and England and has performed extensively in the USA, throughout Europe and India. Michael has produced more than 50 recordings with the BBC in his work with the Bochmann Quartet, as a concert master of the English Symphony Orchestra, and as a soloist.

The international flavour conjured by the evening will continue in October, with the eagerly anticipated Russian Choir, Voskresenecije Vocal Ensemble.

AM calls for more clarity on closure of Berwyn Centre

SHADOW Welsh regeneration minister Byron Davies has expressed his regret at the news that the Berwyn Centre in Nantymoel is being demolished by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, said that he had visited the centre several times since being elected and had been impressed with the efforts made by the community to keep the building open.

He said: "I was there recently visiting the new community library which has been set up to replace the county library which closed."

"I met Mark Davies, who was in charge and heard about the rota of volunteers who were keeping it going and donating books."

"That's the sort of thing that makes Nantymoel a special place. As shadow regeneration minister, I am concerned about this news."

"I understand that the cost of the work needed



ABOVE: Byron Davies AM (right) with Mark Davies.

to make the building safe was £800,000 and that BCBC is saying that demolition is the best option, and that the council is saying that it will earmark £200,000 towards a replacement building, providing the community can secure match funding within two years.

"How will this work, and why do local residents have to find this money? I would have thought it would be up to the council to seek the funding needed, from whichever source it can find."

Mr Davies said that the council should not be allowed to wash its

hands of its responsibilities once the Berwyn was demolished.

"Yes, it has a duty to ensure public safety and if this building is not safe, then it must go, but they are setting arbitrary figures and an arbitrary deadline."

"I would urge them to set up a working party of relevant officers, along with community representatives, to find a way forward."

"The Berwyn Centre was a focal point for Nantymoel residents and its demolition will leave a gaping hole in the facilities available to the community."

Coun Lyn Morgan,

the cabinet member for wellbeing said: "The publicly available report on the Berwyn Centre explains why we have needed to make this very difficult decision and the clear commitment we have given to Nantymoel for the future."

"We have stated that not only will we earmark £200k match funding from our capital programme for a replacement community facility, but that we will work closely with local organisations and the community to develop appropriate bids with external funding organisations."

"The report makes it very clear that the council will play an important role in supporting this. We think the community of Nantymoel deserve to have a say in what replaces the Berwyn Centre."

"We also believe they will wish to have something sooner rather than later, which is why we have proposed a realistic timescale with the funding to match."

"Perhaps when Mr Davies has taken the time to read the report he will feel reassured that it already addresses his points."

'THE BEAST' IS GUEST AT QUIZ ANNIVERSARY



ABOVE: Llangwydd Arms, winners of Division One, with Mark Labett.

TONU Railway Club was packed with keen quiz goers recently to celebrate 40 years of the Bridgend and District Quiz League, started in the early 70s by former Litchard schoolmaster Jeff North.

The prize evening's guest of honour, larger

than life TV personality Mark 'The Beast' Labbett, star of ITV's 'The Chase' was on hand to present the trophies.

Winners of Division One, Llangwydd Arms, which boasts 2008 'Mastermind' champion David Clarke, were also successful in the Knockout Cup competition.

Division Two winners, Tondy Railway Club were promoted to

Division One along with Pheasant Poachers, with the Plate competition being won by Oldcastle 'A'.

The evening began with an excellent quiz, compiled by the league's long standing question setter David Rees.

This keen competition, which was open to all, was won by Maesteg Crown Inn with Mark's team tying for second place with Tyrisha Nomads.

Mark, who stands at two metres tall, proved to be the complete opposite of his persona on 'The Chase'. This very genial, gentle giant enthralled the audience with tales of his experiences on the programme, followed by a question and answer session, later signing autographs and posing for photographs with his many admirers.

Andrea Kingscott

NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE ROTARY CLUB

District Governor visits Cowbridge Rotary Club



LEFT TO RIGHT: District Governor Bob Lewis, new Rotarians Peter Moug and Steven Blackman and club president Andrew Lane.

DISTRICT Governor Bob Lewis, from Porthcawl, dropped in to the Cowbridge Rotary Club meeting on September 17.

He seemed most impressed by the dynamic approach that the club had, with all their activities and a busy programme of events coming up.

The club had exceeded its target for charity

fundraising, which was quite some accomplishment for the year. In addition, the club is continually growing in numbers, and two new members were inducted on Monday, to make the total 40.

There is a concert in October with the renowned singer Maria Lyn, at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, and a grand charity quiz in November.

AB

KENFIG HILL CADETS BUSY COLLECTING FOR RAFA



Some of the cadets who attended at Tesco Bridgend. (Photo supplied by Sgt Gould ATC).

KENFIG HILL RAF Air Cadets were out in force across the borough over the weekend of September 16-17 in Bridgend, Pyle and Porthcawl collecting for this year's RAFA Wings Appeal on behalf of Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill branch.

Cadets from Kenfig Hill joined cadets and staff from 2347 (Porthcawl) Squadron RAF Air Cadets in a street collection in the main shopping centre of Porthcawl on the Saturday.

On the same weekend, cadets from Kenfig Hill were carrying out a door collection at Tesco Bridgend and the Co-op in Pyle.

So, no matter where you did your shopping over the weekend, you would have seen the cadets, and if you were one of the many shoppers who donated, we would like to say thank you on behalf of RAFA.

Sgt Kevin Gould was in charge of the cadets in Tesco and he said although it seemed to be a quiet weekend, many of the cadets were able to fill two of the collecting cans each.

Sgt Jeff Evans was in charge of the cadets in Pyle on the Saturday, while Sgt Richard Peckham was in Porthcawl on the Saturday and then in the Co-op in Pyle on the Sunday.

Lindsay Thomas

Brackla/Bridgend WI try their hands at 'new age curling'



Brackla/Bridgend WI try their hand at 'new age curling'.

IN our meeting on September 18 we were pleased to welcome five visitors, who we hope will become new members of Brackla/Bridgend WI.

It was an energetic and fun-packed evening trying our hand at 'new age curling', with everyone having a go. A big thank you to Gaynor, Brenda and Emma for the lovely refreshments and Jayne's birthday cake.

On Tuesday, September 25, members went on a cruise with the Dragonfly cruises down the Brecon and Monmouth canal.

Our next event will be a craft day on October 9 in readiness for the craft

spectacular in Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday November 17, as well as preparing decorations for the Christmas tree festival in Margam Park Orangery on December 5, to mark the start of the 90th birthday celebrations of the Glamorgan Federation of WIs.

Some of our members will be entering the federation quiz in the Hi Tide in Porthcawl and a 'What makes Wales Welsh' day in Llanhari.

Our next meeting will be our Harvest supper and crafts at Hope Church Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday October 16. If you want to see what the WI is all about join us, visitors always welcome.

TB

PORTHCAWL BANDSTAND AND SQUARE BECOMES CONTINENTAL-STYLE VENUE



SUSSED's smoothie bike, which uses pedal power to make fresh fruit drinks, was popular with adults and children alike!

A SMALL square in Porthcawl, just behind the bandstand in John Street, was recently transformed into a continental-style venue for local people to enjoy themselves during a Saturday afternoon and on into the evening.

The event, entitled the 'Secret Garden Party', featured musicians and poets, and gave the revellers a chance to sample local food and beer.

Sustainable Wales and BCBC's arts department organised the event, and a spokesman said that they wanted to thank the volunteers who helped on stalls and cooked food, and everyone else who made the event a success, including Porthcawl Co-op, and Stokes and Terry's veg shops.

Michael Gore, Sustainable Wales' communications officer, said: "It was especially exciting to see the wide-ranging selection of local musical talent all together at one event, from young rockers to the idiosyncratic Weapons of Mass Percussion.

"Cardiff-based micro-brewery, Artisan Brewing Co. also deserves a mention. Their traditionally-made beer clearly helped create the sociable atmosphere, and no-doubt was responsible for some of the 'special' dance-moves of the crowd."

Mother of three, Vicky Evans, and her children, certainly enjoyed the event: "It is a shame I couldn't stay for the whole evening, but my kids haven't stopped talking about Saturday.

"They especially enjoyed the children's entertainer and the Smoothie Bike!"

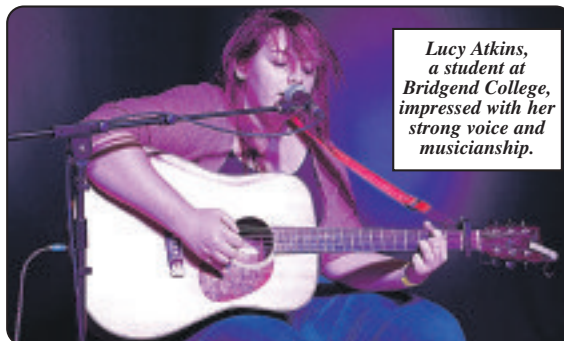
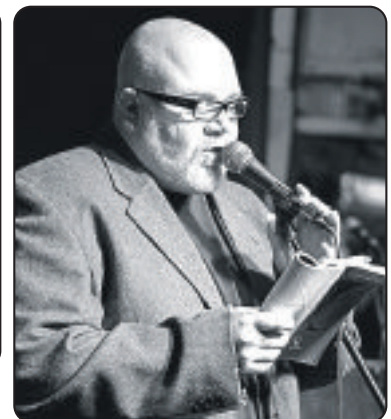
Mr Gore added that using the area around the bandstand in this way was completely fresh, and the organisers hope that this event will set a precedent for future creative uses of this valuable space, and encourage more people to get involved in their community.



Porthcawl's Alyssa Podesta sang.



There was poetry from Susie Wild (above) and David E Oprava (right).

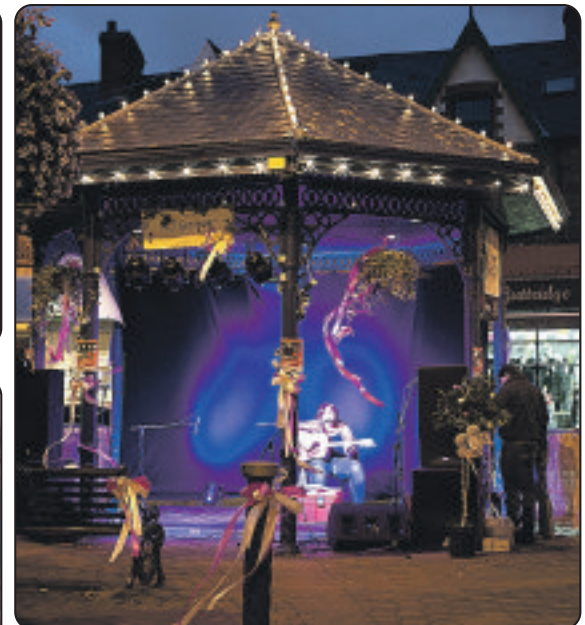


Lucy Atkins, a student at Bridgend College, impressed with her strong voice and musicianship.

Lucy Atkins, a student at Bridgend College



There was circus entertainment for the children.



ABOVE: The bandstand at John Street was transformed into a stage for the afternoon and evening.



ABOVE: Organiser Andre van Wyk and family.



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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Promising jockey jailed after driving car at girlfriend

A YOUNG woman suffered injuries which caused her to be detained in hospital for two weeks and be on crutches for two months after her boyfriend deliberately reversed his BMW car into her.

Minutes before, Dean Coleman, a 24-year-old jockey, had told her he was going to drive her to a remote area near Bridgend and abandon her.

Earlier, Coleman had

crashed into the back of her vehicle, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Coleman, of Coychurch Road, Pencoed, was jailed for two years and disqualified from driving for two years.

He pleaded guilty to two charges of dangerous driving, causing actual bodily harm and attempting to pervert the cause of justice.

Prosecutor Eugene Egan said that on December 12, Michael Byrne, a jockey, received a call from Coleman asking to be let into his

house.

The landlady, Coleman's mother, said he was not to be let in.

Coleman took umbrage at this and texted Mr Byrne, saying he would burn his car unless he opened the door. Further text messages followed.

Later, Mr Byrne discovered the inside of his car had been damaged.

Coleman was arrested and granted bail.

On May 19, Coleman had an argument with his girlfriend, Hannah Rogers, aged 22.

She drove away, pursued by Coleman, to Ewenny Road, where he hit the rear of her vehicle.

She got into his car and he drove off with her, saying he was going to take her to a remote location and abandon her.

She later got out of his vehicle, said Mr Egan, and walked away. Coleman reversed and knocked her over, striking her lower back.

He also said he was going to take an overdose of drugs and apologise.

Later, said Mr Egan, Coleman sent text messages to her asking her to withdraw her statement to the police and lie.

She later made the statement, retracting the complaint but following

that, said Mr Egan, she reverted "to the true position".

David Elias, representing Coleman said: "At the time, his lifestyle was out of control. He was abusing drugs. He has a bright future and Miss Rogers still supports him."

"He realises he is going to prison."

He said the defendant showed great remorse and had driven Miss Rogers to hospital after she was injured.

"Clearly, he was in a disturbed state," he said.

Coleman, who appeared via a video link from prison, read a letter to the court apologising.

He said he had an "action plan" for his future, and would never again become involved with drugs or alcohol.

Said Judge Patrick Curran: "You must have caused your girlfriend great fear, and you committed offences when on bail."

"Only immediate custody can possibly be imposed. You are still a young man, and you had great prospects in the past and you had a very good job."

The judge also directed that Coleman should take the extended driving test.

Suspended sentence for man who 'booted in door'

A WINDOW fitter has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, made subject to a supervision order for a year, ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work and to pay prosecution costs of £500 at Cardiff Crown Court.

Nathan Thomas (31) of Llanach Row, Maesteg, admitted using violence to secure entry, and assault. He was also in breach of a suspended sentence for burglary.

Prosecutor John Probert said that on May 26, he assaulted Natalie Thomas by squeezing a can of lager over her while she was in her garden at the time.

Thomas, said Mr Probert, turned up and argued with his wife, and her sister then intervened.

On June 23, his wife Kelly had been out with friends when she returned to Natalie

Thomas's address.

Thomas turned up wanting to speak to his wife, and when there was no reply, he kicked in a door panel, ran upstairs and was restrained and detained by a man who was in the house.

He admitted 'booting in' the door, after drinking four cans of lager.

He was said to have previous convictions for offences including assault, burglary, causing damage, public order offences, having an offensive weapon, motoring offences and possessing drugs.

Barrister Meirion Davies said: "His relationship with his wife had painted a very sorry picture. He was in a traumatic situation, and he was combining drink with cannabis, which made him become paranoid."

Mr Davies had since said he had stopped taking drugs and had "now got his act together".

He said Thomas and his wife wished to continue with their relationship and move to the

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST JOHN'S YEAR-11 PUPILS



NOT only did a number of year-10 pupils in Porthcawl achieve great results in GCSE modules taken this year but year-11 pupils achieved 100 per cent GCSE pass rate.

With nearly one in five entries achieving A's, this is a strong set of results and overall the majority of pupils gained value-added across their grades.

Particularly impressive performances were from Charlotte Baker who achieved 11 A* to B

grades, Chris Coulson 10 A* to B, and Rosie-May Lyddon nine A* to B, including six A's.

Student of the year was head boy, Hugh Perkins, who added another 10 A's to the one he achieved early last year and three As, which included a further mathematics qualification.

Once again pupils at St John's have gained from the individual attention and support they receive from the loyal team of staff at the school.

Well done, everyone!



ABOVE: Pupils have celebrated impressive results.

DOGS OF THE WEEK

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

THIS WEEK: Tern is a four-year-old Jack Russell Terrier.

She is a clever little dog, who loves to learn (as long as there is a treat in it for her!). She enjoys a good run in the field, and loves to chase after a tennis ball. She gets on with other dogs, although she does like to be in charge.

She would like a home with someone who has owned terriers before, and who will enjoy carrying on her training with lots of praise and rewards.

Bruce: Bruce is a five-year-old Collie. He is a very friendly affectionate dog, and will give cuddles out to anyone who'll take them!

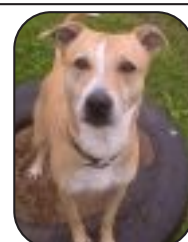
He is nervous around other dogs, so is looking for a home where he can

be the centre of attention. He really enjoys his rural walks with our volunteers, which includes a rest in a sunny spot for some quality cuddle time and a bit of grooming.

He will make a wonderful companion for the right home.

Laura: Laura is a three-year-old cross-breed. She is a sensitive young girl, but once she knows and trusts you she is so loyal and affectionate – a real sweetheart!

She takes her time getting to know other dogs, but has made some wonderful friends here at the centre. She is very enjoyable to train with, and has learned a lot of basic training and tricks with the staff at the cen-



LAURA.



TERN.



BRUCE.

tre. She is looking for someone who doesn't mind making a few visits to the centre to get to know her, so she will be fully ready to go to her new home.

Charity fayre will aid Air Ambulance

PENCOED WI

A CHARITY autumn fayre in aid of Wales Air Ambulance takes place on Saturday, October 20, 10am to 12noon in the Miners' Welfare Hall, Pencoed.

The WI stalls will include books, good quality bric-a-brac, home made cakes and baking, a giant tombola and a raffle. Other stalls will be Fairtrade, the honey pot (gifts and sweets), hand painted cards, hand made jew-

ellery. Tea and coffee will be available at 50p a cup, entrance is free. At the October meeting, a representative from Wales Air Ambulance will give a talk and in November, it's glass blowing.

The group meets in the Miners Welfare Hall on the second Tuesday of the month from 1.45pm to 4pm. Visitors are always welcome. For further information, telephone Val on 01656862181 or Pat on 01656860289.



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Wedding
WHAT a beautiful day on Saturday, September 22, when neighbours of Treoes congregated at St Canna's, Llangan, to await the arrival of local bride Susan Jenkins of Treoes.

Bridegroom, Mr Brian Tucker, was assisted by his daughter in the role of best man.

The age-old custom of paying to come from the church was observed, much to the delight of the children who eagerly collected the coins.

The happy couple returned to their home for the reception which was held in a marquee in their garden. They will honeymoon in Wales.

School news
FORTHCOMING events at Llangan School are:

October 1-5: National Children's book week;

October 1-4: Scholastic book fair in school;

October 2-3: Parents' evening;

October 12: Harvest Festival (parents welcome, 9.30am start);

October 17: PTA meeting at the Red Fox Inn, Penlllyne – everyone welcome to attend;

October 21: PTA event – car boot sale in school grounds, £5 a car;

October 26: Half term, school will re-open on November 5.

Reminder
SATURDAY, October 6, autumn fayre at St Canna's Vestry.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aberkenfig and District WI

Aberkenfig WI recently exhibited in the Glamorgan show and had two entries that were highly commended.

Entries included ducks; red, white and blue craft (knitting); sugarcraft (sugar flowers); bridesmaid's head-dress; painting of an event on a village green; a poster advertising an event on the village green; and embroidery featuring a stained glass window.

These were submitted by the following members Pauline Soley, highly commended for her painting; Gillian Williams, highly commended; Eunice Williams; Irene Burgess; Pat Lewis; Dorothy Thomas; Sally Jones and Dilys Mitchell.

The raffle was won by Dilys and the competition for an item beginning with the letter 'K' was won by Gillian with a pretty ornament of kingfishers.

Eunice thanked the tea hostesses Mair Starr, Gillian Williams and Hilary Crocombe for their expertise.

On September 30, St David's Church in Betws is holding a memorial service to celebrate the life of Miss Betty Hughes, a former teacher at both Garw Grammar and Ynysawdre Secondary Schools. Betty was also church organist at St. David's and a very active member of Aberkenfig WI.

Doors will open at 6.30 pm, with the service starting at 7.30 pm.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig WI will be on October 10 at the

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, at 2pm when the speaker will be Belinda Ashong. Her subject will be 'the Heritage Coast'.

Choir correction

I would like to correct last week's article for Cŵr Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir).

The concert the choir will be putting on as a final rehearsal to perform to the public before its honorary tour to Holland will be in the Catholic Church, not at St Michael's Church on Friday, October 5.

The civic dignitaries of the Dutch city of Hertogenbosch are very impressed with the great interest displayed by the people of Maesteg in supporting its ladies choir.

In the last 25 years of Welsh choirs attending the liberation ceremonies, the Dutch organisers say it will be the first time that any choir has had representatives from their council and British Legion attend the ceremonies.

The choir are pleased Mr Gareth Howells a former Mayor of Maesteg, and the president and chairman of the Royal British Legion, Mr William B Evans MBE and Mr John Hazell, will be joining it on the tour.

Royal Ordnance factory workers

The arsenal in Bridgend was one of the largest munitions factories in the UK during World War Two, and during its construction, five people lost their lives.

It was dangerous work packing shells with high explosives and in Bridgend alone, 22 people were killed through explosions, while many more lost limbs or were blinded.

The workers were mostly young women conscripted during the war effort from south Wales.

In acknowledgment of the outstanding effort these people put into helping win the War, the Royal British Legion is allocating places for these workers to take part in the parade to the Cenotaph in London this November.

Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies, chairman of the All-Party Group on Munitions Workers, is interested in obtaining names of workers who would be available to take part in the parade.

They will be able to be accompanied by a relative or carer, and if required transport can be arranged.

If interested, contact 01656 737777.

Ogmore Valley Primary School

Mr Paul Booth the headteacher would like to advise parents that the presentation of the school governors' annual report has been postponed until Wednesday, October 17, at 6pm.

The Governors are all volunteers and would welcome the opportunity to discuss any items of concern with the parents.

Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangeinor

The school is holding its harvest festival service today (September 27), and all gifts of fruit, vegetables and tinned items will be distributed by the pupils to senior citizens in Llangeinor and 'Treetops' retirement home.

Garw choir

Cŵr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male choir) will be holding a concert to celebrate its Golden Anniversary in the Tabernacle Chapel, Meadow Street, Pontycymer tomorrow (September 28) at 7pm, at which there will be a

number of guest artists.

The choir was formed as the Garw Glee party in August 1962, and was renamed Cŵr Meibion Cwm Garw in 1978.

The choir rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays in the concert room of Pontycymer Rugby Club between 7pm and 8.30pm, where visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome.

Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society

The society will be celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and will be performing a pantomime, instead of the customary concert.

The pantomime is being held at Maesteg Town Hall from Tuesday, November 20, until Saturday, November 24. Weekday performances will be at 7.15pm and there will be a matinee on Saturday at 5pm, with no evening performance.

Tickets are available now by telephoning 07989 439629 or at the town hall on 01656 733269.

St Mary's Church, Garth

I was brought up to believe that church buildings and the property within were sacrosanct, but unfortunately times have changed and the above church had valuable stolen approximately six weeks ago.

To raise money to help replace these stolen items, the Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir, under musical director Alun Hodges with accompanist Suzanne Hodges, have kindly volunteered to perform in a concert at the church tonight, September 27, at 7pm.

Even though it is at short notice, the choir will also have the Bridgend young singer's senior and junior competition winners, Sebastian Waters and Lauren Coates singing solo parts in the concert.

The choir members have also agreed that the choir should donate £300 towards the fund. Well done for this generous act.

Tondu Primary School

Mrs Susan Pilcher, the headteacher, would like to congratulate everyone who took part in the school sports days last week.

Pupils in Teilo House were the competition winners, and the house has been presented with the Latisha Bismire Memorial Shield.

Mrs Pilcher is asking



ABOVE: The Garw Valley Male Voice Choir which sang the first time the choir competed in the Eisteddfod, in 1966.



ABOVE: The choir which won the Eisteddfod in 1969.

parents who drive their children to school not to park on the pavements or the zig zag lines outside the school premises, and to also show consideration to the residents in Meadow Street.

Children in Cyffrig and Ewenni classes would like to invite parents and friends to their class assembly tomorrow, September 28 at 10.20am in the school hall.

The pupils will be helping sell crafts to raise funds for the school's sponsored child in Africa. The school will also have non uniform day to raise funds.

Bridgend Carers' Centre

The above centre is a charity which has set up to provide support and information to carers, in 87, Park Street, Bridgend (01656 658479).

Today, (September 27) between 10.30am and 2pm, part of Macmillan's biggest coffee morning is being held at the centre. It will have a Chinese twist to it with offerings of

Reiki, Hoci (oracular candle therapy) and Tai Chi. There will also be a willow workshop.

Tesco's community lead Nikki will be joining the event and spoiling everyone with treats and cakes.

On Mondays in October, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm.

On Tuesday, October 2, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, the outreach group will be at the Princess of Wales hospital.

On the Wednesdays, October 3, 17 and 24, the community café will be open between 12.30 and 3.30pm.

On Thursday, October 4, 10am to 1pm, the outreach group will be in Trinity church hall, Porthcawl.

At the centre, between 1pm and 2pm, there will be a 'Body Blitz' session with Darja, who will show carers various forms of exercise to help lose weight, increase flexibility and stamina.

Please telephone the number above to book a place, which is free of charge.

The Scouts and Guides combine for a big event

THE Bridgend and Porthcawl units of Girlguiding and Scouting joined forces to hold a unique Queen's Diamond Jubilee event on Saturday, September 15.

Members (five years and up) walked from Waterton in Bridgend at 9am, with the younger age groups walking from Newton Beach starting at 3pm to the Guiding venue in Gorwelion, Porthcawl.

On arrival, the girls were greeted with a bar-becue and tuck shop, where they toasted marshmallows on the camp fire and took part in a camp sing song.

The younger members left at 7.30pm to let the older members of both Guiding and Scouting enjoy a night camping under the stars.

Local PCSO Carl Wesgate attended the event to discuss safety issues and to answer the many questions the children had about being a police officer.

The event was a real success and thoroughly enjoyed by all the children who took part. Melanie Thalaysingam, Girlguiding District Commissioner for Pen-y-Bont, said: "This was my first experience of organising such a large activity whereby Guiding and Scouting came together in a single event."

"I would like to personally thank everyone who attended and especially the Jubilee Committee members from the Scouting community who supported me in organising the event."

MT

AM's plea over local job losses

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, has expressed his sadness at the confirmation that Unilever are restructuring with 250 job losses, including the closure, by the end of 2013, of the former Alberto Culver manufacturing and distribution sites in Bridgend and Swansea.

The AM said: "I very much regret the decision by Unilever to go ahead with this restructuring. This is very sad news for the workers and their families in this area."

"This leaves our manufacturing bases susceptible when restructuring and our manufacturing workforce at risk."

"We now pay the ultimate price with local people being made redundant. I call on the Minister to provide support and advice to the affected workers immediately."

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon said she had been given advance notice by Unilever of their plans to transfer the 27 jobs at their Bridgend warehouse to Deeside in North Wales.

She said: "I appreciate the offer of Unilever to work with each individual employee at the Bridgend warehouse to support them through the redundancy process, and to offer relocation to Deeside. This will remain a devastating blow to the majority of the workers."

"I am informed that jobs will remain in place through to September or October of 2013 and I welcome the Unilever advance notice which gives employees the opportunity to find alternative work locally if they cannot relocate."

Smart apart, clever together

OPEN DAYS 5 & 6 OCTOBER

MONMOUTH SCHOOL
AND THE GRANGE
Wood Avenue, Best British
Boarding School 2011

BOYS 7 - 18 with boarding from 9

HABERDASHERS' MONMOUTH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS AND
INGLEFIELD HOUSE

GIRLS 7 - 18 with boarding from 9

OFFICERS DO THEIR BIT FOR INJURED SOLDIERS

POLICE officers from Bridgend are donning their cycling gear as part of a charity challenge to support injured servicemen.

Around 15 officers will be getting on their bikes on October 1 to cycle 96 miles from Tenby to Porthcawl as they join the Tour de Forces team who are cycling around the British coast to raise money for the Royal Marines Association, Blesma, the Royal British Legion and the Semper Fi Fund (see page 20 for the full story).

The Tenby to Porthcawl stretch of the jour-

ney sets off from Tenby at 8am on Monday October 1, and is looking to arrive in Porthcawl at 5pm that day.

An evening event, including a raffle and entertainment, will also be held by the police team at the Royal Oak in Porthcawl to raise further funds for the cause.

PC David Rees, a former Royal Marine who is taking part in the challenge with the police team, said: "It's a real privilege to take part in the bike ride alongside the former service men and the rest of the Tour de Force team - what they have achieved is truly outstanding."

Councillors' mixed reactions to pay and display along Porthcawl seafront

by PHILIP IRWIN

REGIONAL AMs Byron Davies and Suzy Davies are joining forces to oppose plans to bring in parking charges along much of Porthcawl's seafront.

The cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) approved a scheme last week to introduce pay and display machines along the Eastern promenade, the Esplanade and along West Drive as far as the junction with Windsor Road.

The decision was based on a consultation exercise held five years ago in 2007.

At that time, BCBC talked to town and borough councillors, the chamber of trade and the tourist association.

Byron Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, said that as Shadow Regeneration Minister, he was felt that a more recent consultation was needed.

He said: "I know that the cabinet has decided to go through a formal consultation process before issuing a public notice, but I am concerned that this will involve only the statutory consultees, and not the wider community, especially those in business in Porthcawl."

"A lot of things change in five years. There have been two sets of local government elections in that time and many of the councillors who were consulted in 2007 are no longer on their respective authorities. Also, many businesses will have changed hands."

"I will be writing to the council urging them to consult as fully as possible, especially as the Porthcawl regeneration scheme is now on stop."

However, Coun Alana Davies, the senior Labour member on Porthcawl Town Council, said she supported the plan.

She said: "I support this because there are few similar towns where people can park for free along the seafront."

"Not all the car owners do make a contribution to the local economy when they park on the sea front. Some eat their sandwiches and then drive home."

"A parking fee will bring some money to the town."

Byron Davies said that the report present-

ed to councillors last week stated that the council could make about £88,000 a year from imposing these charges, which will range from 30p for half an hour to £6 for four hours or more.

He asked: "Are they viewing this scheme as a cash cow with little thought for the damage it could do to business and to tourism in the town?"

"There's also a danger that people will try and park in the side streets to avoid paying, which could have a knock on-effect on the guest houses and small hotels located in them which need spaces for their guests."

Coun Alana Davies said: "Parking in side streets has always been an issue in Porthcawl. I live in a street where visitors are always looking to park."

"It's a fact of life when you live in a popular seaside town."

The Porthcawl independent, Coun Sean Asprey said that he broadly supported the pay and display plan, and agreed that similar towns such as Tenby operated such schemes.

He said: "Many people park in these spaces all day long, which is not fair on others. Charges will stop that happening."

"I think that parking in side streets could be an issue, and BCBC needs to consider double yellow lines on one side of the street if narrow roads start getting blocked."

He added that he wanted to see a portion of the cash raised 'ring fenced' to be spent in Porthcawl.

He said: "BCBC estimates that it should raise £90,000, but we think it has the potential to raise up to £150,000."

"We would certainly want to see some of that money spent in Porthcawl."

For the Lib-Dems, Coun Gerald Davies said: "I think BCBC had no option but to get an income stream in this way, not just in Porthcawl but in other parts of the borough."

"I also believe that there should be a full round of consultation on this proposal."

The issue of blue badge holders could be contentious.

Coun Asprey said that he understood that one option under consideration was to allocate some of the pay and display bays to blue

badge holders.

The percentage would, of course, affect the total cash raised because blue badge holders are exempt.

However, Coun Gerald Davies pointed to the 2007 consultation, saying: "When that document was produced, it was stated that there would be no exemptions in the pay and display areas, and that everyone would be charged."

Suzy Davies, who is Shadow Welsh Tourism Minister, said that anything which deterred visitors from coming into Porthcawl should be avoided at all costs.

She said: "We have a stalled regeneration scheme at the moment and no plans to provide any major attractions to draw people in."

"It would be a tragedy if the day trippers who enjoy coming to Porthcawl for a few hours were to be driven away by these charges."

"I understand that the council has to consider ways of raising revenue, but with parking issues increasingly seen as a barrier to thriving High Streets, the council must ask whether it will lose more than it gains from this idea."

"This is not the time to be exploiting the visitors who come to Porthcawl. Businesses are struggling enough without this added blow."

Both AMs are also concerned about the scope of the scheme.

Byron Davies went on: "There could be a case for bringing in parking charges on The Esplanade, which gets very congested but where is the justification for imposing charges along West Drive?"

"That's well away from the town centre and is used by people patronising local hotels, and also by others wishing to walk to Rest Bay."

"It would appear that the only rationale for imposing charges there is to rake in more money, regardless of the impact that they may have."

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A 'Band 1' School

Porthcawl Comprehensive School

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 7 INTAKE IN 2013

To be held at 6.00 pm Thursday 11th October 2012

The school is holding its **Annual Open Evening** for those parents who wish their children to attend Year 7 in September 2013.

Anyone interested may obtain more details and 'The Welcome Pack' by e-mailing OpenEvening@PorthcawlSchool.co.uk or by telephoning 01656 774100.

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all. Examination results have been consistently above local and national averages.

This is what Estyn (School Inspectors) said about us:-

"Transition arrangements from both primary into secondary and into the Sixth Form are very strong. The outstanding primary-secondary liaison is very well co-ordinated".

"Behaviour is very good, based on self-discipline and outstanding relationships exist between students and teachers".

"The overall provision for pupils and students personal development is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The quality of the accommodation is good and in some areas very good. The provision of ICT facilities is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The school has a very rigorous approach to bullying; there are very good follow up procedures".

"There is an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities, held mainly during lunchtimes and after school, the participation rates are very high".

Hardwork, improvement and success, three short words that accurately summarises Porthcawl Comprehensive Students' AS and A2 performances for 2011-12.

Students at AS and A2 have had their endeavour rewarded with excellent results. There is a large debt of gratitude for teachers who have worked so hard once again this year and for parents who have supported their sons and daughters.

At A2 the pass rate at A* to E was 99.2% while the A* to C pass rate was an impressive 82.34%. Almost 30% of the whole entry percentage was at the A*/A grade.

A very impressive 15 students achieved three A grades or better at A2 level, with some achieving four and even five 'A' levels.

The AS results were equally as impressive - 93% of the entry was A* to E and 68% achieved the A* to C grade. At AS a very impressive 25% of the entry achieved the A grade.

Headteacher Mr Dykes commented that this excellent series of results will ensure Porthcawl students will secure places at some of the best universities in the country. Mr Dykes continued to congratulate staff and students who were praised for their hard work and steadfast dedication. Mr Dykes concluded that the results were especially impressive given the large size of the

entry; over 350 papers were taken at A level.

The departments of History, English, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and Textiles performed particular well. Other notable performances came from Art, Drama, Electronics and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Students who performed particularly well:

Jordi Bonet	1A* + 3A + 1B
Lowri Patterson	1A* + 3A
Philip Pickett	1A* + 3A
Hayden Lau	3A + 1B
Catherine Walters	3A*
Nia Thomas	3A
Jessica Townsend	2A* + 1A
Bethan Williams	2A* + 1A
Lewis Williams	2A* + 1A
Kristian Farrow	1A* + 2A
Rachel Halley	1A* + 2A
Charlotte Hill	1A* + 2A
Alex Howells	1A* + 2A
Sidney Rogers	1A* + 2A
Amy Sheppard	1A* + 2A

Courtney-Lee aims for Miss Teen GB in Blackpool

MISS Teen Bridgend 2012, Maesteg's Courtney-Lee Morris, is heading to Blackpool this weekend to compete for the title of Miss Teen Great Britain.

The 17-year-old former Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari pupil, where she has just completed her AS-Levels, saw off competition from hundreds of young girls and will now go on to compete against 59 other teenage beauty queens in the grand final at Blackpool's The Globe Theatre this Sunday (September 30).

She will be competing for a £1,000 cash prize, £500 to spend at The Dress Studio, a modelling portfolio with FAB Photoshoots, make-up from Beauty UK, products from I Love... Cosmetics, a two-night break at a Puma Hotel, shoes, bags and more.

Courtney-Lee told The GEM she couldn't wait to compete, saying: "I've always liked this kind of thing. I like doing my hair and make-up and I like the nice dresses."

"It's all about the hair and the make-up, but also about charity work. We raise money for Claire House Hospice, a

children's hospice, and I've also helped Ty Hafan and the RSPB previously.

"I travel up on Friday with the family, then Saturday we're going to Blackpool Pleasure Beach and there's a pyjama party in the night for all the girls to meet."

"Then Sunday it's all about the finals. We'll rehearse all day before the final starts at 7pm."

When asked about the stereotypical view of cut-throat pageants, epitomised most by the 1999 Hollywood film *Drop Dead Gorgeous* starring Kirsten Dunst and Denise Richards, Courtney-Lee said that the truth is the opposite.

She said: "Everyone

thinks that before they go but everyone goes there to have fun. We all get on and have a laugh. I already know Miss Teen Swansea through Facebook so I'm looking forward to seeing her."

And Courtney-Lee says that Sunday won't be the end of the road should she not place, adding: "Any girl would like to win the title but I don't it's not a problem. I just want to have fun, but if I do win I want to make a difference with my title."

"I will carry on regardless of the result - it's like a hobby to me."

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders



READING GROUPS ARE EXPANDING IN BOROUGH

READING groups at many of the council's libraries within Bridgend county borough are currently welcoming new members.

A library spokesman said: "If you enjoy reading and would like to join a friendly and informal group to talk about books you've liked, loved or even hated over a cup of coffee, here is the perfect opportunity. Admission is free and all books are available to borrow from your local library."

Reading groups currently looking for new members are: Ogmogre Valley Life Centre, last Thursday of the month at 11am; Pencoeed Library, last

Friday of the month at 10.30am; Pontycymmer Library, first Monday of the month at 2pm; Pyle Life Centre Reading, third Thursday of the month at 7pm; Y Llynfi (in Maesteg Sports Centre), first Friday of the month at 10.30am.

For more information, call Bridgend Library Information Service on 01656 754800, or e-mail blis@bridgend.gov.uk.

Existing reading groups interested in borrowing sets of books from the library should call 01656 642465 or e-mail

Helen.pridham@bridgend.gov.uk.

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The **co-operative** pharmacy

Local Olympians and Paralympians welcomed home at The Senedd

PHOTOS by GLYN EVANS



IN a recent welcoming home celebration at The Senedd, athletes from Bridgend and the Vale were among the Welsh heroes of Team GB's Olympic and Paralympic squads cheered home on the steps.

First Minister Carwyn Jones was among the politicians captured by GEM photographer Glyn Evans welcoming home the likes of table tennis bronze medalist Paul Davies, from Bridgend, pictured right with his medal.

NFU ladies visit 'Downton Abbey'

THE NFU Vale of Glamorgan Ladies have resumed their autumn meetings.

Janet Lewis, chairperson of the group, welcomed Sharon Clancy from Llansannor who gave the group a very interesting and informative talk on her early years being brought up in Jordan.

Quite a few of the ladies reminisced on similar experiences being brought up here in the Vale, everyone agreeing that a flush toilet is still a real luxury.

Marion Lewis gave the vote of

thanks.

The summer trip was a great success, visiting Highclere Castle.

Downton Abbey is now being watched with greater interest, recognising the gardens and interior.

The stop off on the way home was at the Foresters Inn at Penhow, which ended the day very well.

Janet reminded the group that the annual NFU Harvest Thanksgiving Service is on October 4 at Margam Abbey at 7.30pm.

New members are always welcome.

JS

CHARITY TEA BREAK

I AM writing to ask GEM readers to support people with epilepsy by getting involved in National Tea Break on October 19.

We hope as many people as possible will get together with friends, family and colleagues to host a tea break and raise vital funds for a great cause.

Every year, 32,000 people are diagnosed with epilepsy and every penny raised from this event will help us to

continue our vital work in supporting the 600,000 people with epilepsy across the UK.

To register for a free tea break fundraising pack, visit: www.epilepsy.org.uk/teabreak, or call the fundraising events team on 0113 210 8800.

For more information about the work of Epilepsy Action, visit: www.epilepsy.org.uk

Michael White,
Fundraising Events Officer,
Epilepsy Action.



Menter y Fro's AGM

THE Annual General Meeting of Menter y Fro, the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh language initiative, will be held on October 18 at 6pm at Cardiff and Vale College, Colcot Road, Barry.

It will be an opportunity for the public to hear about the work of this organisation during the past year, and the exciting plans for the future following the presence of the Eisteddfod in the Vale.

Menter y Fro is part of a network of such organ-

isations across Wales which work to promote and support the Welsh language in their communities.

There are a number of plans being drawn up which could bring a considerable increase in Menter y Fro's activity, and there is a real need for new members on the organisation's management board.

Anyone who lives or works in the Vale is entitled to become a member of Menter y Fro and to apply for a seat on the management board.

Visit the website: www.menteryfro.com to find out more.

Volunteers needed for Red Cross service

THE British Red Cross is urging people looking for a new challenge to give their time and skills to a new service that supports vulnerable and isolated people - Gofal Y Ddolen.

The charity is holding a recruitment event later this month to encourage more volunteers to support the initiative.

The project aims to help vulnerable people 50 years and older to combat loneliness and isolation by linking them up with other services and social groups in their local communities.

The recruitment drive is being held on Thursday September 27 at Hen Goleg Resource Centre, College Field Close, Barry, CF62 8LF. People are invited to drop in any time between 10am and 5.30pm.

Volunteers must be over 18 and able to commit to regular visits.

Tasks can include anything from offering company with a cup of tea and a friendly chat to more practical help such as doing the weekly shopping. Experience is not necessary as full training will be given.

For more information, call Rob Purnell on 07921 404327, or email: CardiffCSS@redcross.org.uk

Friends of Beaches' second anniversary



BARRY-BASED environmental group 'Friends of Beaches' will be holding its next beach clean this Sunday, September 30, meeting at Watchtower Bay at 3pm.

All volunteers are welcome to spend an hour helping to clean the beach but should remember to bring some drinking water, and sun protection (if required).

All litter picking equipment is provided.

Last month's litter pick at Jackson's Bay saw volunteers spending a productive hour helping to remove fishing

line, plastic bottles, drinks cans, nylon rope and glass from the beach in what was some of the worst weather conditions yet.

To celebrate its second anniversary the group will be providing free Fairtrade tea and coffee and birthday cake.

The co-ordinator, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "We will be celebrating our second anniversary, during which time volunteers have removed hundreds of sacks of rubbish, and we have also recycled most of what we have collected."

"We have proved our critics wrong. Barry people do care about their environment, especially our wonderful beaches."

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...Take a
closer look

Victoria Park's summer season is huge success!

VICTORIA PARK in Barry has developed an excellent reputation for providing high quality musical entertainment this summer.

Local photographer, Lauren Allen, captured these images of its latest event which proved a great day out for local families.

**IMAGES
BY
LAUREN
ALLEN**

**FOR PHOTOS
07961 421443**



Rotary supports local school with music equipment



ROTARY Club of Barry president John Shapland and past president Ceri Griffiths recently visited Palmerston Primary School where they met pupils who were enjoying the music equipment purchased with a donation from the Rotary Club and a large donation from Jessie's Fund.

Speaking on behalf of the school, Helen Jenkins said that the music equipment was

well used and much appreciated by pupils and staff alike.

President John Shapland said that he was delighted to see that the pupils were enjoying the music equipment. If you would like further information on Rotary you can speak to Barry Rotary club secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 741424 or president elect Peter Battle on 01446 710204, or look online at www.rotary.org.

Club members meet weekly on Thursdays in the Mount Sorrel Hotel in Barry 6pm for 6.30pm.



Ship Inn's support for Macmillan

THE Ship Inn, Harbour Road, Barry is holding a Macmillan Cancer Support event this weekend, September 28-30.

On Friday, there will be BRK disco and 'Horsefactor' starting at 8pm.

On Saturday, in the morning there's Macmillan coffee and cakes; followed in the afternoon by 'Princess and Pirates' for the children from 2pm to 4pm.

On Sunday, there's fun in the afternoon from 2pm – a tug of war and raffle.

'MY FEELINGS FOR THE EU'

I WAS in hospital when I read Christopher Short's letter, which included a reference to my pursuit of anything anti-EU.

I still have that as my main concern and it started with the Common Market.

The EU is a totally undemocratic institution where, unfortunately, there are two layers of control that we, as voters, have no means of

voting on – the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

Our only voting is for the European Parliament every four years, and they get paid fantastic salaries plus expenses.

I have noted that D J Radford of Barry has recently also been making comments on that bete noir! Mrs D E Coombes-Herridge, Barry.

Time for the Harvest Auction

THE September meeting of Laleston WI must be Harvest Auction – and it was.

On September 6, Maureen Morgan once more was the auctioneer and she conducted proceedings in her usual entertaining fashion,

ably assisted by Helen Fry and Sandra Scott.

Members had donated fruit, vegetables and baked items, providing a great display. A donation will be made to Y Bwthyn.

The luncheon club meet on September 11. A team of four members took part in the WI quiz at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl, on September 20.

In October, members will be going on an educational trip to Cardiff Museum.

The next meeting will be on October 4, with a talk on photos and music. **JR**

Brass band will play for Haiti

A LOCAL brass band will be playing in Barry this Saturday to help fellow musicians in Haiti.

Following the terrible devastation left in the wake of the 2010 Haitian earthquake, members of the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band have been organising events to raise funds to buy instruments.

These will go to the Salvation Army Band in the poverty-stricken country where music plays an important part in many people's lives.

The band will be playing and collecting money for this cause on King Square in Barry this Saturday, September 29 from 11am to 1pm.

Following a successful trip to Fecamp in France, as well as claiming third place at the National Eisteddfod, members are looking to increase the size of its training band, which meets on Monday evenings at the Athletic club at Barry Island, from 6.15pm to 7.15pm. Some instruments are

available if you don't have one, and the training band is open to anyone with basic music knowledge. There is also a junior band, which is suitable for beginners, and this is held at the same time.

Anyone interested should contact Chris Murray on 02920 198516.

AW

Charity race night

THERE will be an evening of horse racing to raise funds for charity in Barry West End Club, St Nicholas Road, on Saturday, September 29, 7pm-11.30pm.

The aim is to raise funds to help researchers find out more about anaplastic thyroid cancer. There are also plans to set up a tissue bank, which would cost around £10,000.

For more details, visit the website www.thyroid-supportwales.co.uk

Netball

Congratulations to Joanna Wilkins and Lydia Hitchings who have been selected for the under-16 Cardiff and Vale county netball squad.

Coffee morning

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan is holding a charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday October 2, 10.30am-12 noon. All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church.

Out and About with The GEM

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Mayor's coffee

BARRY Town
Mayor, Coun Les
Sword, will host the
World's Biggest
Coffee Morning on
Friday, September 28
in the Mayor's
Parlour at the
Council Offices,
Gladstone Road,
Barry, from 10am-12
noon. All donations
on behalf of
Macmillan Cancer
Care.

St Athan table top sale

A **TABLE** top sale is
being held at the New
Community Centre,
Glyndwr Avenue, St
Athan on Saturday,
September 29.
The cost will be £4
per table (provided).
Sellers arrive at 12
noon, doors open at
1pm. Refreshments on
sale. Call Carol on
01446 730100 or Jackie
on 07701064707.

Toy and Train Sale

COLLECTORS'
'heaven' returns to
Barry on Sunday,
September 30, when
the Toy and Train Sale
takes place at the
Leisure Centre
between 10.30am and
3pm.

Organiser Chris Dyer
said this week: "Barry
is one of our most
enjoyable shows and is
held in a first-class
venue."

For further information,
contact 01643
702757 and 07966
694579, website
www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Flower arrangers

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club next
meets at 7.30pm on
Wednesday, October 3
in the Lesser Hall,
Cowbridge Town Hall.

Dylis Ayling will
give a demonstration
entitled 'Autumn
Tapestry'. A warm welcome
awaits.

Bake-off

CALLING all cake makers - pop on your pinny and take part in SUSSESD's Fairtrade cake baking/tasting event on October 6 at 10am at James Street, Porthcawl (open to the public at 11am).

Bring your favourite
recipe along, made with
as many Fairtrade
ingredients as possible.
Entrants call 01656
783962 or email: sustainablewales.org.uk
in advance.

The public can join
in from 11am to taste
and help judge. Tickets
are £2.50 and include
tea, coffee and lots of
tasting. Recipes will be

Botanical drawing course

A **SIX** week botanical
drawing course,
taught by artist
Debbie Devauden, is
under way at
Dyffryn Gardens.

It started on
September 22, but still
has five sessions to go, if
people are interested:
October 6, November 10,
November 17, December
1 and December 8 (from
10am to 4pm).

Debbie Devauden is a
botanical artist based in
Monmouthshire, who
specialises in water
colours and pencil drawing.

For further information
on course fees, contact
Alison Cummins,
communications manager
on 01446 709825; fax:
01446 421479; email:
acummins@valeofglam-
organ.gov.uk

published on the
Sustainable Wales website.

Charity exhibition

THE Mid Glamorgan Dolls' House and Miniaturist Group will
hold its annual dolls'
house exhibition on
Saturday, October 13
from 10am-4pm in the
Town Hall,
Cowbridge. Entrance
adults £1, children
over five, 50p.

Displays, sales
tables, light refreshments.
All proceeds to the
Noah's Ark Appeal.

Society's 88th show

BARRY and District Chrysanthemum Society's 88th annual show will be held at
the Salem Baptist
Church Hall in Beryl
Road, Barry, at
1.30pm on October 31.

Exhibitors are invited
to bring their exhibits
on October 30 between
5.30pm-8pm, or on
October 31 from
8.30am-9.30am.

Judging will commence
at 10.30am.

For full details, contact
K Williams, 27
Regent Street, Barry
(telephone 01446
741733).

Stitch 'n' Bitch

BARRY Stitch 'n' Bitch, established a
year ago, meets every
Monday between
10am and 12 midday
at the Senior Health
Shop, Holton Road,
Barry. New members
welcome.

Email
mdennis.wales@gmail.com
or telephone 07811
159800 for further
information.

VOGA show



ABOVE: Geraldus John with his grid of digital images based on street art.

'SEEING the Unseen' - an exhibition of new work by VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists)

will open at Oriel Canfas Gallery in Cardiff on September 22, and continues until October 20.

VOGA is a group of
contemporary artists
based in the Vale of
Glamorgan who work in
various disciplines
including painting,
sculpture, printmaking,
photography, ceramics
and computer graphics.
In preparing for this
exhibition, members of
the group have been
challenged to use their
skills and imagination to
express something which

reaches beyond familiar
appearances.

Oriel Canfas Gallery
is at 44a Glamorgan
Street in Canton and
opening hours are
Monday - Friday
1pm-4pm and Saturday
10.30am-4.30pm.

Screen Talk is
taking a well-
earned break, but
will be back next
week with the
verdict on
Bruce Willis's
time-travel
blockbuster,
Looper - follow
Screen Talk on
Twitter -
@GEMscreeentalk

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BARRY CADETS DROP IN TO SEE THE MAYOR



THE Barry Sea Cadets recently paid a visit to the Mayor's Parlour to meet the Barry Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword.

The cadets wanted to know about the role of the Mayor and his secretary, and learn the history of the town and its crest. The photo shows the cadets holding a signed history of the crest.

The latest Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D741.

● £2,000: 126916.
● The rollover, which now stands at £8,000, was not won this week.
● £10: 6 2 4 5 3 2

865799, 684450, 607923, 423446, 181233, 278189, 571525, 219252, 129106, 395953, 690758, 840197, 439818, 868290, 704310, 505435, 423345, 454466, 310884.

● £5: 857597, 302358, 559420, 196060, 298156, 467277, 183905, 465406, 441689, 630110, 422801, 698829, 358517, 216156, 120051, 955084, 626289.

726063, 481366, 605200, 547059, 859626, 202687, 744062, 101434, 720257, 665641, 140016, 651044, 467726, 540875, 324145, 947046, 216276, 894026, 447563, 360714, 484593, 949055, 709899.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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The Dogs Trust celebrates shop's first anniversary



ON September 15, the team at the Cowbridge-based Dogs Trust charity boutique donned their party clothes and hung up the bunting to celebrate the shop's first anniversary and raised more than £2,000 in the process.

During its first year, the charity boutique has seen some interesting donations, from Jimmy Choo handbags to scuba diving equipment, showing that there really is something for everyone!

Jael Jones, Dogs Trust Bridgend charity boutique manager, said: "We can't believe a year has passed already. The support from the community has been overwhelming and we have had some amazing items donated to the shop, all of which has helped raise money for the rescue dogs at Dogs Trust Bridgend."

"One of my personal highlights has been John Barrowman helping us open the boutique. He's such a big supporter of Dogs Trust and has donated all manner of items, including a set of sheepskin dog stops to help his four-legged friends reach the bed!"

"His items always create quite a stir and we have had queues of fans waiting for the doors to open to buy their own piece of 'Barrowmania!'"

The day's celebrations were helped along by a burgeoning table of hand-made cakes, includ-



Helen James holding Juno, Caroline Yeoman holding Jeffery and Eileen Topliss.

ing the iconic Welsh cakes, all of which went down a storm with customers.

Entertainment was provided by the alternative fashion show which saw 'models' from the nearby rehoming centre taking not only to the shop floor but also the window to model items from the shop, all of which were up for sale.

A host of VIPs (very important pooches) from Dogs Trust Bridgend also popped in to greet customers.

While they kept attempting to linger by the cake stand, there were plenty of hand-made doggy friendly treats on hand so they could also join in with the celebrations.

The charity shop is always looking for donations of all shapes and

sizes and the team has recently added a vintage section to the shop.

Featuring a range of items from vintage bed pans to Art Deco lampshades the specialist area has been a hit with shoppers.

Jael added: "The volunteers who help run the boutique and the people that donate items, have all helped us raise nearly £60,000 for Dogs Trust, so thank you everyone for making this possible."

"We've already started to get into the festive spirit and are seeing people coming in looking for Christmas presents."

If you have any items you would like to donate, please drop them into the shop at 62 Eastgate, Cowbridge, between the hours of 9am and 5pm or call 01446 774423 to arrange delivery.

'LEARNER OF THE YEAR' IS WELSH GROUP'S FIRST CHAIRPERSON

A PUBLIC meeting was held recently to discuss plans to set up a Canolfan Gymraeg (a Welsh-language centre) in the Vale.

The purpose of the Canolfan (to be called Ty Cadog) will be to provide an opportunity for both first-language speakers of Welsh, and those who are new to the language, to use Welsh in a supportive social environment, and to foster the interest and pride of non-Welsh speakers in their heritage.

A total of 30 people attended the meet-

ing in the Mount Sorrel Hotel. Considerable interest was shown in the idea of raising money through shares and selecting a suitable building in Barry.

It is felt that a café in Ty Cadog is likely to attract visitors from Cardiff and further afield who wish to use or practise their Welsh.

At the close of the meeting, a steering committee was formed and it met formally on Monday evening, appointing Kay Holder as its chair.

Kay, who won the 'Learner of the Year' award at the National Eisteddfod in

Wrecsam in 2011, said: "The National Eisteddfod in Llandow has opened many people's eyes to the existence of Welsh in the Vale and has brought the Welsh-speaking community together."

"It's timely now for us to build on that legacy and ensure that nobody in the future is unaware that the Welsh language is alive and well in the Vale."

Everyone, Welsh-speaking or not, is welcome to contact Tim Pearce for further information or go to www.tycadog.org, @tycadog or Ty Cadog on Facebook.

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VALE TAKES A TASTE OF WALES TO ITS GERMAN TWIN TOWN...

MEMBERS of the Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association travelled to the twin town of Rheinfelden in south-west Germany for the annual street festival recently.

The purpose of the visit was to encourage contacts between cultural, sporting, musical and social groups in the Vale and similar interest groups in Germany. The visit was also enjoyed by Neil Moore, Leader of the Council and Eric Hacker, Mayor of the Vale.

At a meeting in the Town Hall, attended by council leaders and twinning association members, the suggestion that each town should compile a register of groups interested in making such contact should be circulated to each town, was received with great enthusiasm.

While in Rheinfelden, members enjoyed assistance on our stand where we were selling Welsh whisky to a very appreciative clientele. This goes some way toward paying our travel costs.

Members of their Friendship Circle welcomed us to stay with them for the weekend. We were also able to enjoy a boat trip down the



The delegation from the Vale that travelled to Germany.

Rhine to Basle or to take a sightseeing drive around the nearby countryside. We were constantly surprised by the warmth of our welcome.

Enquiries for contacts in the Vale of Glamorgan were received from a stamp collector, a hydro-electric engineer interested in the proposed Severn Barrage, the local Caribbean steel band and also the town brass band.

A photographer, compiling an exhibition of scenic photographs of all the twin towns, is coming to the Vale, where members of our

twinning association will guide him to some of the beautiful locations we have.

The twinning association will be very pleased to hear from any organisation interested in forming contacts with similar groups in our twin towns. Please contact Mark Petherick of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

RODNEY CARE,
Chairman,
Vale of Glamorgan
Twinning Association



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Vale MP calls for airline involvement in airport task force

VALE MP Alun Cairns has commented on recent news that Helvetic airlines were to cancel their flights to Zurich from Cardiff this October.

Mr Cairns is disappointed that the airport has had to suffer a further blow to the flights it

offers and passenger numbers.

Despite the potential for Cardiff Airport to become an international gateway for business and tourism, the number of passengers travelling through the airport has decreased by 42 per cent between 2007 and 2011.

Mr Cairns said: "The announcement is another blow

for the Welsh economy and for the Vale in particular. Many jobs depend on the airport and the viability of airlines based there.

"It's apparent that other airports around the UK, such as Newcastle and Edinburgh, have had significant support over the last 10 years by the North East Regional Development Agency

and the Scottish Government.

"That is how Emirates went to each airport to kickstart the route. Sadly, the Welsh Assembly Government has failed to develop a strategy to support Cardiff Airport.

"Cardiff Airport is a good airport, and has the capacity to deliver so much for south Wales

and the economy here, but it has not had the political will to support it.

"The First Minister is now chairing a task force, but it's surprising and disappointing that no airlines were invited to take part in the task force to advise on developing new European and transatlantic routes, and attract-

ing new carriers to Cardiff.

"I hope the First Minister will consider, with some urgency, involving major airline representatives in future meetings to bluntly tell the Welsh Government what measures it must take to make Cardiff a more attractive proposition to major airlines."

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In and out of the classroom at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

Pupils perform at the National Eisteddfod!

IT'S been a busy summer for a number of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg pupils who were performing at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale.

A group of pupils from years 7-10 were performing an original musical score by Mrs Lowri Cynan and Mrs Betsan Perrett in the Theatr Fach y Maes on Monday. A number of pupils were singing with the choir and the Heol y March party.

Pupils also took part in the service on Sunday morning and the drama medal ceremony.

Congratulations to two year-8 girls, Hana Evans and Manon Ogwen Parry, on their excellent success in the dialogue competition for under-25s, especially with them only being 12 years old.

Their winning performance was from the classical drama *Antigone*. The judge was the young actor Mathew Rhys.

Also, congratulations to Manon on her individual success in winning the third prize in the girls' solo under-16s competition.

A concert was held last night (September 26) where there was an opportunity to see these young talents performing.

Year-12 visit the Bay AS part of their Welsh Baccalaureate studies, year-12 visited the Welsh Assembly and Cardiff Bay.

Pupils benefited from the experience of learning about democracy and the Assembly. They also enjoyed the opportunity to practice their questionaire skills to collect



Manon Ogwen Parry (left) and Hana Evans (right).

information about changes in the Bay.

Only Kids Aloud
IT has been a summer filled with unforgettable experiences for two Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg pupils – Tanwen Cray (8R) and Seren Hamilton (9G).

They have been taking part in the Only Kids Aloud choir's performances in Russia, the Wales Millennium Centre and in the Olympic and Paralympic Games opening ceremonies.

Here's their story in Tanwen's own words: "Being part of Only Kids Aloud has been an incredible experience. I can't tell you what feelings I had as I opened the letter from Tim Rhys Evans himself!

"The first practice was in the company of Dan and Dave – members of the Only Men Aloud choir. After weeks of practising in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff and Aberystwyth,

it was time for us to go to St Petersburg, Russia.

"The big day arrived and everyone was tired and nervous after seven hours of rehearsals that day. We were to perform Mahler, 'Symphony No9' in the Concert Hall of the famous Marinsky Theatre.

"Valery Gergiev was our conductor and Tim helped us to remember when to stand and when to sit during the concert. The experience of singing in this theatre was totally unforgettable.

"It was also a very special experience to be part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games opening ceremonies. I left school an hour early on a sunny spring day to be recorded on Rhossili beach singing the hymn 'Bread of Heaven'.

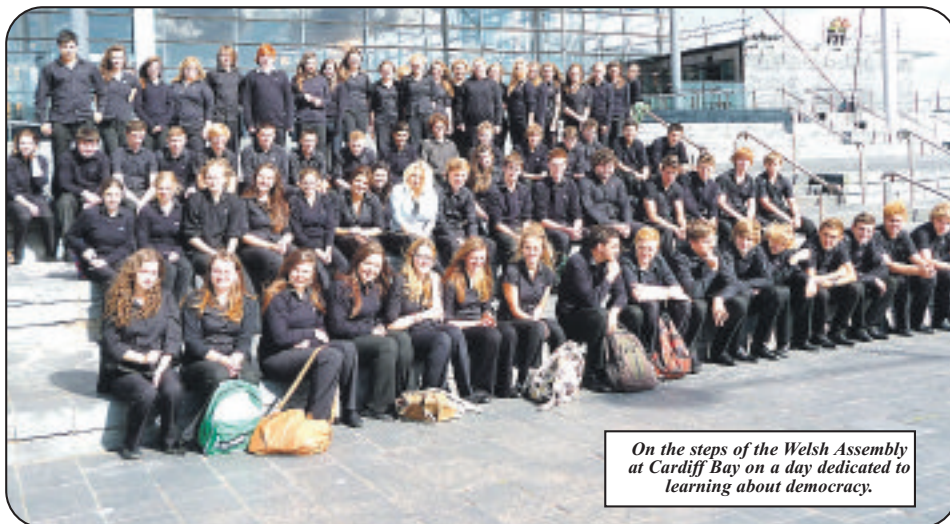
"It was very exciting to see myself on TV, especially when I considered millions of people from around the world were watching. "We were then invited to be part of the Paralympic Games opening ceremony! All I can say to describe the experience of being in Cardiff singing 'Pure Imagination' from the film Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and also the song Can, is – wow!"

"My highlights of being part of Only Kids Aloud were having a cwtch with Joe McDerry, being part of all the amazing experiences above and being in the company of Tim and Dan, without forgetting my friend Elinor."

Emily Denham



Some of the school's pupils performed at the National Eisteddfod this summer.



On the steps of the Welsh Assembly at Cardiff Bay on a day dedicated to learning about democracy.

Musical fundraiser benefited LATCH children's charity

Report and words by:

FRANK SHIPTON.

Email: frankshipton@mac.com

Telephone: 07790 882925

A CHARITY musical fundraiser in a marquee at the HiTide, Porthcawl on Friday September 21 helped children's charity LATCH on their way to giving sick children a much-needed holiday.

The aim is to raise £20,000 to purchase a holiday caravan at Trecco Bay for sick children and their families.

The event was well attended, and a spokesperson for the charity said they were well on their way to purchasing a pre-owned caravan, but if they can reach £20,000 then they would be able to acquire a brand new model.

He also paid tribute to all the volunteers that had given their time in the fundraising, and especially Natwest Bank, who supported the event with a number of their staff helping out.

Local acts giving their services included: Dick Dastardly, The Cover Sluts, and one final performance by local heroes Evil Turkeys.



The Cover Sluts perform in the marquee.



LATCH volunteers were at the event and praised those who had helped to organise and run it.

Male Voice Choir is coming home Friday!

ANNIVERSARIES for choirs are times of reflection. Memories of concerts, happy social occasions with good friends and visits come to mind.

Barry Male Voice Choir has left its musical mark throughout Europe. Its sound has resonated throughout churches, cathedrals and auditoria of various kinds in Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Ireland, Scotland, the Channel Islands and England.

The choir is proud and delighted to return to one of its favourite venues for its 110th anniversary gala concert.

This will be held at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Wyndham

Street, Barry on Friday, September 28 at 7pm.

Tickets at £6 are available at the door.

The choir look forward to welcoming new and old supporters on this very special occasion.

TIME FOR THE HARVEST AUCTION

LATEST NEWS FROM THE LALESTON WI

THE September meeting of Laleston WI must be Harvest Auction – and it was.

On September 6, Maureen Morgan once more was the auctioneer and she conducted proceedings in her usual entertaining fashion, ably assisted by Helen Fry and Sandra Scott.

Members had donated fruit, vegetables and baked items, providing a great display. A donation will be made to Y Bwthyn.

The luncheon club meet on September 11.

A team of four members took part in the WI quiz at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl, on September 20.

In October, members will be going on an educational trip to Cardiff Museum.

The next meeting will be on October 4, with a talk on photos and music.

JR

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VALE MAYOR WELCOMES 'DOSH' DISTRIBUTORS TO HIS BARRY PARLOUR

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker, and the Mayoress, Heather, welcomed two young guests recently to the Mayor's Parlour.

Sam Pearce and James Mansbridge, along with Mia George, sit on the 'Dish out Dosh' panel, which is a youth-led panel of volunteers.

This has been running for five years, and provides funding for youth-led groups in the Vale.

Dish out Dosh has three aims, which are;

- That the groups are youth-led,
- They must involve volunteering,
- They must have a community benefit.

The money for Dish out Dosh comes from Gwirvol and the 14-19 Network. This year they received £10,000 which has been awarded to six projects. The Dish out Dosh panel will monitor the projects until March 31, 2013.



LEFT: The Mayor and Mayoress with Sam Pearce and James Mansbridge.

Penarth Ramblers walking through history in Magor

A TOTAL of 13 walkers joined Joy at Magor, a village which adjoins the Caldicot levels beside the Severn Estuary.

The surrounding countryside was lost beneath a hazy mist and, having fought their way through a series of styles covered with foliage, the group reached a small copse near Waun-arw Farm, where archaeologists discovered both worked and unworked flints, and fields led to the ruins of an old dovecote near Pencoed Castle.

During winter when fresh meat was scarce, fresh pigeon or their eggs was a delicacy to

supplement the diet in medieval times and, having stopped for morning coffee, pieces of freshly-baked ginger cake from Ann were enjoyed to celebrate Jeff's birthday.

Pencoed Castle, originally built as a hunting lodge, dated to Tudor times when Coed Gwent or Wentwood was enormous. In the early 20th Century, the castle became part of the Herrick estates and in 1862, William Perry-Herrick married Sophia Christie, who was 37 years his junior.

They remained childless, and after his death following a riding accident, she inherited all the estate lands. She was a militant teetotaler and was responsible for the closure of many public houses in Magor, which did not make her very popular!

The next problem, a path lost to a field of maize was tackled and having crossed farmland the group reached Coed Wen, woodland containing ash, lime, wych elm and wild cherry and part of a national nature reserve.

Rewarded with fantastic views across Penhow and towards Wentwood, the group crossed a valley for the short climb to St John the Baptist Church, next to Penhow Castle.

Penhow, now privately owned began its life in 1070 as a stone built keep or look-out to protect the knight retainers of the local Norman earl at Chepstow Castle. Sir Roger St Maur came across from France and inhabited the castle in 1129 after usurping a

local Welsh leader, and later the family's surname became anglicised to Seymour.

By the 14th century, the castle became a stronghold with a moat and drawbridge and, even though it has been altered many times since, it remains a beautiful building.

After lunch enjoyed in bright warm sunshine, and having looked inside the church, the group descended through fields and some road-walking led them to the small church dedicated to St Brigid.

This Irish virgin saint from Kildare declined marriage and instead entered the church and allegedly performed lots of miracles and cured many people.

The group passed through more meadows beside the St Brides Brook, which led them back under the M4 and to Magor.

On September 22, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile walk in the St Nicholas area; contact Val W on 01446 734925.

On September 23, meet at 10am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a five-mile easy walk in the St Fagans area; contact Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

Joy Strangward

Bipolar group offers support

THE Barry Bipolar Self Help Group offers support and information in a friendly, safe and confidential setting for anyone affected by bipolar.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 4pm-6pm in the County Library, King Square, Barry.

For further information regarding the group, and about the services of Bipolar UK in Wales, please call 01633 244244, email ajames@bipolaruk.org.uk or visit the website: www.bipolaruk.org.uk

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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Lamb & Flag



WHEN the father and daughter team of Dave and Emma Bullen took over the Lamb and Flag in Wick earlier this year, they had a clear idea about the famous Vale pub's future.

It was, after all, a 16th Century ale house and they agreed that good beer and homemade food was the key, with a few added modern tweaks, of course.

Dave said: "If we have a 'mission statement', it is a simple one, that says that the Lamb and Flag will be a traditional ale house, with traditional beer, traditional food – and even traditional music nights!"

Enter the pub and you will find one room is now the 'Pie Room' because there is no more traditional pub fare than a quality pie, and that is what Emma, who has a degree in Food & Nutrition, and the pub's chef Rory Donnelly have cooked up.

They offer 'whole case' pies with a constantly-changing choice of fillings, all cooked when the diner orders, never before. Although some favourites, such as Beef and Ale and Fisherman's pie, are always available, they are keen to offer something different as well.

There is Ham Hock, Cider and Apple Pie, for instance, and the Vegetarian Pie has proved a success. A Halloween Pie is ready for the end of October, and a Christmas Game Pie will be an option for parties booking the pub for their Christmas event.

When the Six Nations rugby comes around, there will be Italian, and French pies, as well as ones for the home nations!

Dave emphasised that everything else on the menu is home made and hand cooked to order.

The chips are hand cut and the desserts are also made on the premises, including the intriguing 'Bara Brith Ice Cream'.

Another traditional value embraced at the Lamb and Flag is generous portion sizes. There are no nouvelle cuisine tiny plates, and no one leaves hungry.

The pub is a free house, with five real ales always on tap, and with two guest ales that change every fortnight or so. Guinness is another popular brew, and Dave prides himself on keeping the beers at their best, he said: "Guinness send inspectors regularly and we always get five stars!"

Plans are well in hand for the festive season, and Emma said that they intended to offer a Christmas menu with a difference.

As well as the aforementioned Christmas game pie, there will be Pan-Fried Trout, and starters such as Cumberland Sausage and Cider Apple Pate, Smoked Mackerel Terrine and pan fried Chicken Livers.

Sunday lunches are also popular, with a two-course lunch at £10.95, and a three-course at £12.95. They serve Sunday lunches up to 3.30pm, which allows for more flexibility for diners.

Pubs such as the Lamb and Flag have always played a special role in their community, and this is something Dave and Emma have embraced.

They promote local events at the pub, and publicise others, and should soon be an official tourist information centre for the area.

Emma said: "We already get lots of walkers and tourists coming in asking for information, so it seems best to make it official."

Good food and drink in the heart of a community – just what a Vale pub should be!

PHILIP IRWIN

NEWS FROM POSITIVE IMAGE CAMERA CLUB

Jenny's talk offers hints and tips

JENNY COX brought to PIPS her experience of many years with a camera, from doing a six-year course at university, to working as a professional photographer.

We were given a free lesson on portraiture, from how to compose children with various backgrounds, through candid, thought-provoking images, to classic compositions which earned her a number of prizes.

Jenny has used her talents in other ways, through being a member of Cardiff CC, she worked on the executive committee of the WPF, served as president, and is judges and lectures secretary at this moment.

Altogether a wonderful evening which gave us ordinary photographers a lot to think about. BB

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COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

PYLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL CIVIC SERVICE

LAST Sunday, September 23, a Civic Service for the new chair of Pyle Community Council, Coun Kay John, was held in St Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill.

It was conducted by the Rev Jonathan Durley, and was followed by a reception at the Talbot Community Centre.

At the reception, Kay thanked Rev Durley for an excellent service, and Harold Phillips, clerk to the council, for his hard work and the superb way that he had organised everything.

She also thanked Cheryl Butcher (manager of the Talbot) for the excellent buffet, and her guests, who included the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Clive and Paula James, the Youth Mayor, Christopher Walburn, the chair of Cornelly Community Council, Mrs Mavis Marks, BCBC Councillor Luke Ellis, fellow community councillors, the Police and Fire Service, representatives of the local churches and organisations, and her family, for supporting her and making her induction as chair to the Pyle Community Council such a memorable day.

Kay and all her guests also enjoyed the wonderful singing by Da Capo, the children's choir, conducted by Kathryn Brace, who gave what was possibly their best performance to date for this special occasion.

BETHEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

COFFEE morning – Bethel Community Church, Pwll y Gath Street, Kenfig Hill, is holding a coffee morning tomorrow, Friday September 28, between 10am and 12 noon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Why not go along and support this worthwhile cause?

FIREFIGHTERS' SPONSORED WALK

LOCAL firefighters Jason Parry, Heath Baron, Barry Llewellyn and Tom Briggs are embarking on an epic walk for charity tomorrow, Friday September 28.

They will be setting off on a two-day sponsored walk covering 70 miles from St Michael's Children's Hospital, Bristol, and they will be finish at Kenfig Hill RFC on Saturday evening.



ABOVE: Firefighters Jason Parry and Heath Baron, who are walking from Bristol to Kenfig Hill.

This will be followed by an evening of entertainment in the club house. It is not too late to sponsor them or join them for the evening.

Entry is just £3, with all proceeds going jointly to the firefighters' charity and the 'Cots for Tots' appeal, which raises funds to support the special care baby unit at St Michael's Hospital, and Cots for Tots House, a dedicated 12-bedroom family accommodation facility for parents of sick and premature babies.

PISGAH LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

CANCELLATION – Due to unforeseen circumstances, the coffee evening tomorrow evening and the Harvest Supper on October 4 have been cancelled.

An open evening is planned in October and information for this will be given at a later date.

For information regarding the Ladies Fellowship telephone either Rhian on 01656 744772 or Karen on 01565 740684.

THE COLLWYN

WITHDRAWAL of application – There has been some concern at the decision of Pyle Community Council to withdraw the application to register the Collwyn as a town or village green.

The application was made at a time when it was feared that the Collwyn may have been sold and developed for house building – on those parts of the Collwyn where it was possible.

The registering of the land as a town or village green would have prevented such a possibility.

Subsequently, however, Pyle Community Council purchased the Collwyn to hold it in trust for the community, thus preventing any commercial development and removing the need and the cost of



ABOVE: Coun Kay John reading the lesson at her Civic Service.

registering it as a town or village green.

CYNFFIG FRIENDS

THE Cynffig Friends Association is holding a cheese and wine night to host its AGM on October 4 at 6.30pm in Cynffig Comprehensive School, East Avenue, Kenfig Hill.

They are a friendly and welcoming group who would love to increase their numbers to help their efforts in raising funds for the school.

They haven't been going for long but have already held some great events including 'Cynffig's Got Talent' and 'Slave for a Day'. They would very much welcome some fresh faces with fresh ideas.

For more details of this group and how you can help, telephone Mandy on 01656 742832.

KENFIG HILL

WELLBEING CENTRE

ACTIVITIES – the activities being held by Mental Health Matters at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, October 3, will be: a money advice workshop with the Citizens Advice Bureau from 1.30pm to 3pm; bingo from 2pm to 3pm; and the reading group from 3pm to 4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm to 5pm, when everyone is welcome to go and enjoy themselves in a friendly environment with a cup of coffee and join in the activities provided.

MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Jessica Hardwicke – class 1, Alex Foote-Bruce – class 2, Elva vos de Mooy – class 3, Sonny Wood – class 4, Zuzanna Kubala – class 5, Connor Jenkins – class 6 and Olivia Evans – class 7.

The headteacher's award went to Rhys Davies – class 7.



ABOVE: Cheryl Butcher and Harold Phillips at the Civic Service reception. (Civic Service photos by Keith E Morgan.)

Special lunch – congratulations also go the following pupils who joined Mr Davies for lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standards of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Ryan Legg, Taryn Matthews, Jack Joy, Harry Sleath, Lucy Dyde, Ellis Peart, Owain Pugh, Dylan Lightwood, Ffion Harman, Bronagh O'Neal and Victoria Franhlyn.

Class 7 assembly – On Friday, October 5, Miss Brace and class 7 will be performing their assembly in the school hall starting at 10.15am.

Parents and grandparents of pupils taking part are welcome to attend this assembly and to stay for refreshments after the performance.

Open day/evening – On Tuesday, October 2, year-6 pupils will attend an open day at Cynffig Comprehensive as part of the transition programme.

The school has also arranged an open evening for parents of year-6 pupils from 5pm to 7pm on that day, with an opportunity for a tour, as well as the chance to meet staff.

For further information, contact Cynffig Comprehensive School on 01676 740294.

LLYS TON

A **CONCERT** featuring the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir and the Maesteg Children's Choir will be held in the Llys Ton complex, Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, October 10, at 7pm. Entry is £3 including a drink. These evenings are very popular as choirs always seem to create a special atmosphere.

For further information regarding this and other activities at Llys Ton, contact Tricia Bailey on 01656 745666.

Halo Leisure marks Older People's Day

THE UK's annual Older People's Day is on October 1, and Halo Leisure is inviting older people in Bridgend county borough to visit one of its centres at Bridgend, Pyle, Pencoed, Ogmore, Garw, Ynysawdre,

Maesteg for advice and guidance on getting more physically active.

Nicola Hunt, Halo Fitness supervisor, said: "This year the focus for the day is about sharing experiences between different generations, and what better way to bring people of all ages together than through exercise."

"Being more physically active encourages people to prepare well for and enjoy a positive later life which benefits each of us individually and society as a whole."

Nicola added: "It is great news if you are 60 or over as you can get free swimming lessons as part of the Welsh Government's Free Swim Initiative – just ask at your local Halo pool at Bridgend, Maesteg, Pyle, Pencoed or Ynysawdre."

Art to be on show

AN invitation is extended to the exhibition of paintings at the Kenfig Nature Reserve from October 1-31.

Four local artists, John Hemsley, Kerry Jones, John and Christine Turner, residents of Porthcawl, will be showing their work.

For further information, contact John Hemsley on 01656 743555.

TOUR DE FORCES SET TO PASS THROUGH PORTHCAWL

PORTHCAWL will play host to a special band of fundraisers on October 1 as the Tour De Forces – made up of British and American veterans – cycle through.

The fundraising team departed from Plymouth on September 1 on a challenge that will take them over more than 3,000 miles around the British coastline.

Tour de Forces are a team of British and American veterans and civilians that have set themselves this massive challenge to raise much-needed funds for four charities – the Royal Marines Association, Blesma, the Royal British Legion and the Semper Fi Fund.

The idea stemmed from team leader Paul Shearsby, son of a current WO2 in the Royal Marines. He will be joined by former Royal Marine Mark Ormrod, a triple amputee of the Afghanistan conflict after an IED explosion on Christmas Eve 2007, who uses a customised hand-cycle generously donated by Invacare.

Former British Forces Lee Hollingsworth and former United States Marines Master Gunnery Sergeant Charles Padilla make up the rest of the main team, while they will be joined by sports thera-

RIGHT: Paul, Mark, Lee and Stevie, undertaking a charity cycle challenge of more than 3,000 miles for charity, with the Mayor of Great Yarmouth on September 7.

Pic courtesy of the: TOUR DE FORCES FACEBOOK PAGE.

pist Stevie Budge and vehicle support driver Sean Aiken.

The challenge is expected to last 36 days and will be finished off with a 'welcome home' charity ball in Plymouth on Saturday, October 6.

Having set off on September 1, the team travelled along the south coast and up the east coast as far as Inverness in Scotland before travelling back down the west coast to include Wales.

Today (September 27), the team will travel 94 miles between Benllech and Llanystumdwy, and they are due to undertake the 96-mile stretch between Tenby and Porthcawl on October 1, before travelling 101 miles between Porthcawl and Weston-super-Mare on October 2.

To keep up to date with the team's progress, or to make a donation to their cause, visit the website: www.tourdeforces.com.



Join the art society

INTERESTED in art? Join the Porthcawl Art Society at the Gallery at the Old Police Station, John's Street, Porthcawl.

Workshops are Wednesdays (1.30pm-3.30pm) and Thursdays (7pm-9pm). For more information, call Lydia on 01656 767611.

AM praises work of local youth club



ABOVE: One of the most successful youth clubs in Wales, the Nantymoel Boys and Girls' Club, had a visit recently from Byron Davies AM, the Shadow Minister for Regeneration. Mr Davies had been invited by Coun Enyd Lock to Nantymoel Memorial Hall to witness the work of the club and see how the club's refurbishment had gone. Mr Davies praised the club's organisers, and the local community for its support.

Sinking boat is saved with the help of the RNLI

RNLI lifeboats from Porthcawl and the Mumbles were involved in a dramatic rescue operation recently after a 34 foot commercial dive boat with two people on board began taking on water.

The boat from Cardiff was just off Scarweather sands when it got into difficulty. Porthcawl's Atlantic 85 RNLI lifeboat was first on the scene and found a father and son onboard.

The volunteer crew put a salvage pump on to the vessel and began pumping out the water. Crew members James Kinsella and Joe Missen managed to locate the leak, and worked to stem the flow of water in cramped conditions in the engine compartment.

The son was taken on board Porthcawl Lifeboat, while the father remained on board to help. Rescue helicopter 169 from RAF Chivenor arrived, and dropped a second salvage pump onto the boat, as the vessel was still taking on water fast.

Joe Missen, said:

"The boat was on its way from Cardiff to Swansea when they discovered there was a steady flow of water coming in. The skipper then called the Coastguard and immediately launched his life raft. He and his son got ready to abandon ship.

"When we arrived alongside the boat, we found it was taking on water quite severely. It was a difficult situation,

as the vessel was drifting very close to a sandbank, so we needed to begin the towing operation swiftly."

Following the rescue, Mumbles Lifeboat towed the boat to Swansea, but received another SOS call, so Porthcawl lifeboat was re-launched to take the casualties ashore and tow the vessel into Swansea Marina.



The Porthcawl RNLI crew had to perform a double rescue recently.

PORTHCAWL'S PLAN TO TACKLE TOWN'S DOG FOULING MENACE

A new enforcement officer will work shifts around Porthcawl to ensure dog owners are cleaning up after their four-legged friends.

A NEW pilot scheme, 'Yes to Clean Streets!', has been launched in Porthcawl to tackle the menace of people not clearing up after their dogs.

The launch was attended by partners in the pilot including: Bridgend County Borough Council street scene, Porthcawl Town Council, Porthcawl Shout, the neighbourhood policing team, and Porthcawl Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Porthcawl now has its own dedicated enforcement officer, who will be deployed on a rotating shift basis from early mornings to late evenings.

Launch organiser Mike Clarke said: "The vast majority of residents are fed up with the anti-social behaviour of a minority of dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs.

"Strong co-operation across all agencies and a robust 'fines' system signals the determination residents want to see.



"There are more than 250 waste bins in situ across Porthcawl, so the 'shortage of bins' brigade is a spent force.

"Any resident can ring 01656 643643 and ask for BCBC Street scene to report a problem in their area. You do

not have to give your name, it is entirely confidential."

Leaflets have gone out to residents of Porthcawl and district, and new 'bin it here' signs have been placed by the partnership team on every bin.

A training event between the Police and the enforcement team manager has been held. Fixed penalty fines are £100 with any going to court carrying fines of up to £1,000.

WBS vehicle upgrade means more blood can be collected across region

BLOOD donations in the Vale and Bridgend are set to become easier and more frequent after Health Minister Lesley Griffiths AM agreed more than £900,000 of funding for new vehicles to renovate the Welsh Blood Service's (WBS) fleet.

In total, the WBS will see two new six-bed mobile blood collection clinic trailers, one equipment vehicle, two support vehicles and four large delivery vans join their existing fleet.

These will help to modernise the WBS' collection services, as well as improve the current clinical system, meaning that more blood can be collected more often across the Vale and Bridgend, as well as south and west Wales.

WBS deputy director, Alan Prosser, welcomed the news, telling The GEM: "Some of the old vehicles are 13-years-old now, so this is exactly what we need.

"Now, 25 per cent of all our blood taken is in the mobile blood units, so we can go in to the Vale and Bridgend, set up, and there will be less manual handling. Thousands of people come forward, and these vehicles are a real life saver for us.

"We are introducing a new process to speed up the whole blood donor experience, and the new vehicles will be config-

ured to this.

"We can also go in to large organisations and set up at their place of work and take donors during work time. We will now be able to come in to the area, and more often. They are a fantastic tool for the WBS.

"The people of Bridgend and the Vale are great supporters of the WBS, so thank you!"

Lesley Griffiths AM said: "With an ageing population, we need the services of the Welsh Blood Service more than ever.

"This investment will enable them to provide flexible, accessible blood donation units and get out into even more of our communities to encourage more donors to come forward.

"I hope people see these units and are encouraged to give blood. One in three people in Wales will need blood in their lifetime, but only one in 30 will ever give blood. Giving blood saves lives, and hopefully this investment will enable the Welsh Blood Service to reach more potential donors."

The WBS are looking for even more sites, such as supermarkets, for their public collections, as well as more businesses to work with on work-based collections.

To set up a collection appointment, call the WBS, free, on 0800 252266.

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

'Inconsiderate road users need to be brought to senses!'

I WOULD like to bring to the attention of every person using our roads: I am new to cycling and enjoy the sport and keeping fit, but other road users make this very hazardous.

Would road users drive past pedestrians so close that they could reach out at arms' length and touch the vehicle? I don't think so! So why do motorists pass unreasonably close to

cyclists?

I have had a few really scary moments in the short time I have been cycling. It's not just cyclists either, horse riders very often get ignorant motorists passing much too close to their animals.

I am both a rider and a cyclist and feel road users put my life at peril and that of my horse. Does it take a fatal accident to bring these inconsiderate road users to their senses?

Heather Verrall Brynna

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Doctor Bob's 16

16th Birthday

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ON THEIR ANNIVERSARY**

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by TIM
CHAPMAN

DR BOB'S Balloons in High Street is a Barry institution, but what a lot of local people don't realise is that it is known throughout the world thanks to owner Bob Armstrong.

Bob, who is celebrating the 16th anniversary of the business on Saturday, October 6, has taught 'balloon sculpture' not only in Britain, but also in Italy, Poland, Hungary, The Netherlands and Belgium.

His advice is in constant demand at conventions, and the Americans are keen to demonstrate his skills.

The American connection plays an important role in the story of Dr Bob's.

Years ago, Claire, Bob's daughter, inspired the idea of a business when she brought back balloons from a party shop in Orange County, Florida.

Bob was inspired to become creative. "It was the best present I ever had. I had to learn from scratch and teach myself how to make things with the balloons. I started trying to make things like dogs and swords."

In time, Bob became more ambitious, and nowadays his most extravagant creations can take up to 20,000 balloons to create!

His range is astonishing - castles, life-size archways, festive



ABOVE: One of Bob's specialties is doing cartoon and film characters.

Christmas scenes, cartoon characters, giant flowers, caricatures, pirates, vehicles, celebration banners, balloon streamers - in fact anything that will add pizzazz to a wedding, birthday, anniversary or corporate event.

Bob explained: "People have given the skill different names like 'balloon artist', but the common term now is a 'twister'. When I'm teaching at a convention there can be 400 delegates there."

Bob first ran the business from home. Then he opened in High Street, sharing a unit with his former brother-in-law, before moving to the current premises after three years.

Claire said: "Children love coming into the shop and seeing all the special displays."

"They like being able to touch



ABOVE: People love Bob's bright, colourful designs.



ABOVE:

A blue dragon about to take flight!

and feel rather than having to just look on the internet.

"We've also got all the party-ware in the shop for people holding special celebrations like birthdays and school proms.

"We also do a lot of corporate work."

Bob has lived up to events for Dow Corning, LATCH, Barclays, Asda, Tesco, BBC, S4C, Bupa, Toyota, and many more.

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Doctor Bob's

16th Birthday

16

BOB WORKS MAGIC AND ARTISTRY ON BALLOONS!



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

Colour-theming of events is the new rage, and Dr Bob's knows just what is required.

Bob pointed out: "People like it because a colour-themed occasion can be so visually striking – we've got all the expertise to provide that memorable day."

Bob and Dr Bob's Balloons have also been at the forefront of promoting 'eco-friendly' balloons which are 100 per cent biodegradable.

Last year, he helped to launch the 'Green Balloon Campaign' at the Red Dragon Centre when the European Balloon Association and Qualitex held the Balloon Art Festival which 74,000 people visited.

He was also the first port of call when the producers of 'Gavin and Stacey' wanted to give the main characters' wedding scene that touch of style.

Another benefit of dealing with Dr Bob's is that the shop stocks hundreds of lines of balloons and offers alternative air-filled designs to the helium variety.

Bob is a familiar character in High Street and over the

years has been a huge supporter of the local traders, also serving as chairman.

He is now looking forward to welcoming people to an anniversary day special, when people will be able to see how the shop has been rebranded.

He emphasised: "We've re-organised the layout of the shop to make the products and designs more

accessible.

"We've also got lots of popular new design pinatas (shaped objects) on display.

"To celebrate our anniversary there will be lots of offers, promotions and exciting designs on the day.

"For the little ones, we've got Mickey and Minnie making an appearance from 11.30am to 3pm."

doctor bob
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transition space. Think carefully about
the materials you use - whether it's a
glass balustrade or oak bannisters - you
can make it a design focal point of your
home. The two key points are: what
materials to use, and what shape
staircase will work in your home.

Tailor make your storage

Using bespoke joinery rather than flat pack
storage can save huge amounts of space and
it is a simple, economic way of uplifting the
design of your home. A tailored approach
means you get exactly the right spaces to
store or showcase your possessions, and
results in a house that is designed around
you rather than the dimensions from an
IKEA catalogue. It doesn't need to cost the
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and designs to achieve great results.

Make An Entrance

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hallway and entrance but don't forget about
these spaces. It's a cliché but first impres-
sions do count. By dressing them beautiful-
ly you can have an uplifting feeling every
time you enter your home. This can be as
simple as finding the right fixtures and fit-
tings for your door - they are worth invest-
ing in as you use them every day and they
are often the first and last things you see
when entering or leaving your house.



Don't Over-Do It

The trick is to not be too bold and stylised,
as treatments tend to date. If you are to use
bold colours use them on scatter cushions or
throws and keep the main fabrics more
tonal.

Paint Floorboards

Paint floors throughout the house and don't
worry about the wear and tear underfoot.
Signs of productivity are a beautiful by-
product of the home living space.

Open Up Your Kitchen

The open-plan way of designing your
home has been fashionable for a long time.
But now it's easier to open up your kitchen
and connect it to the surrounding rooms.

Don't Forget Privacy!

However... don't get carried away with the
open-plan lifestyle. Make sure you retain
private spaces for relaxing and getting
away. Many people spend their budgets on
the most visible rooms like the kitchen and
bathroom but don't underestimate the qual-
ity of an opulent master bedroom suite.

Get 'Flexi' Lighting

Down lighters have a tendency to be scatter
gunned across a ceiling and can often lead
to harshly lit spaces. It's worth investing in
interestingly designed freestanding floor
lamps. These can also be moved between
different rooms to change the ambience of
different spaces. Don't forget wall-lights-
these are also a neat alternatives providing
in direct illumination

Go Blue

Ice blue can be a very calming colour in a
busy environment. It keeps the room light
whilst still remaining interesting. It's also
very easy to add colour to as it's so neutral
without being boring. The use of grey
alongside has the same effect.

Create a 'Garden Room'

Bring the outside in by treating your exteri-
or spaces as a room. This can involve a
small covered patio space which is detailed
like a room: can you paint the walls? Have
you invested in proper quality furniture?
Can you create continuity between the
flooring used outside and inside to help
merge the spaces?

Who wants to build what, and where?

The occupier - **Tolzey Cottage, Penmark** -
Remove one mature ash tree to rear of property.
Mr and Mrs Forte - **The Cottage, Penmark** -
Remove three large Leylandi trees at the rear of
property.

Mr Steve Burge - **99a Plymouth Road, Penarth** -
Proposal to demolish existing three bedroom semi-
detached residential dwelling and construct four
bedroom sustainable residential dwelling.

Enweny Priory Estate - **The Stables, Corntown** -
The demolition of existing stables and erection of a
detached dwelling, access arrangements, landscap-
ing and associated works as 'enabling development'
to facilitate the restoration of the Enweny Priory.

Mr Harald Schindehutte - **18 Heol y Dryw, Rhose** -
Erection of replacement fence.
Miss Gail Butler - **17 Church Terrace, St Mary Church, Cowbridge** -
Single storey extension/sun-
room to rear of property.

Dr Anke Reid - **Pendoylan Nursery, Pendoylan** -
To demolish existing house and build new dwelling.
Mr Richard John - **Field parcel 110 to the south of Sisingstone** -
Construction of a replacement agricul-
tural shed.

Mr Dominic Wallis - **Greenfields, Castle Hill, Llanbleithian** -
Single storey rear extension and or-
angery.

Mr Gareth Thomas - **Badgers Hollow, Graig Pen-
lyn, Cowbridge** -
First floor side extension.
Fitz Project Management - **140 Colcot Road, Barry** -
Domestic extensions to existing house.

Mr Tom Kendrick - **9 Cold Knap Way, Barry** -
Take down and rebuild west extension chimney
stack in stonework to match existing. Stack to
include cavity tray, lead apron flashing and ventila-
ted clay pot. Re-render west gable wall apex and
chimney stack. Paint both west end stacks and wall
to match existing.

Mr J F Clode - **O'Neils Car Sales, Cardiff Road, Barry** -
Change of use of premises to permit the
sale of cars.

Fitz Project Management - **49 Kenilworth Road, Barry** -
Conversion of three storey Victorian HMO
into four self-contained flats.

Parkwood Community Leisure - **Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry** -
Insertion of new glazed opening into existing external wall.

Mr and Mrs Daniels - **5 Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas** -
Demolition of existing timber conservatory
and replacement with new steel framed, slated
roof, PVCU conservatory.

Mr Gary Hunt - **12 Dyserth Road, Penarth** -
Erection of a single storey extension to rear of the
property. Existing garage to be demolished and new
garage to be erected.

Mr and Mrs S Patel - **129 Greenacres, Barry** -
Proposed two storey side extension over existing
single storey building to form new guest bedroom
and larger dining area.

Mr Evan and Mrs Lilian Wilson - **Land to the north of Claypits Lane, Colwinston** -
Proposed hay and silage bale store.

Mrs C Lewis - **The Grove, Corntown, Bridgend** -
Proposal to construct new four-bedroom house.

Mr Matthew Cant - **17 Elm Grove Road, Dinas Powys** -
Single storey extension to the side and rear of
house.

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HOME



Who wants to build what, and where?
continued...

Mr Leon and Mrs Rachel Annett – 11 Upper Cosmeston Farm, Penarth – Erection of double glazed UPVC conservatory to side elevation of house.
St Helens RC Junior School – Tynewydd Road, Barry – Installation of solar photovoltaic modules to the flat roof(s) within the grounds of St Helens RC Junior School.
Miss Carla Mahoney – 1 Crescent Close, Cowbridge – Proposed new decking area to the rear of the property.
Redrow Homes – Land to the west of Port Road, Wenvoe – Residential development for up to 150 dwellings with associated access, estate roads and public open space.
Mr Emyr Hughes – East House, Nash Manor, Nr Cowbridge – Change of use of land to residential curtilage.
Mr M Rees – The Farm, St Hilary, Cowbridge – Certificate of Lawful Development application for a dwelling house.
Principality Building Society – 26a High Street, Cowbridge – Works involve replacement windows and internal alterations in relation to conversion of first floor to a flat.
Mr Trevor Andrews – 9 Cornerswell Place, Penarth – First floor side extension.

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Future Window Solutions are members of Network Veka who are an independent nationwide organisation set up to give our customers peace of mind.

We have the backing of a national trade organisation which constantly monitors our performance to ensure we maintain high standards of workmanship.

It is a requirement for our continued membership and to ensure all our work and products meet the required standards set by the Government's building regulations.

Our on-going contracts to name a few consist of domestic property, Ashgrove School Penarth, Mynydd Cynfig School, Bridgend, Barclays Bank branches, Dwr Cymru, Youth Offenders' Centre, car showrooms, local estate agencies and Local Authorities.

We supply all types of building work project managed from planning through to completion.

We supply and install high quality Veka PVC-u windows, doors, sash, bi-folds etc, conservatories, orangeries, garage conversions, energy efficient products as standard.

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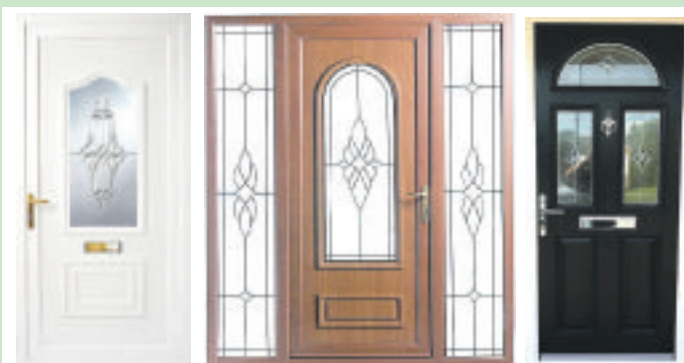
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Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,
Craig Harewood,
Proprietor.

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Christmas Menu 2012

Starters

Tomato & roast red pepper soup with fresh pesto drizzle (V)
Pan seared scallops with black pudding, smoked bacon & brandy mustard sauce
Homemade blinis with smoked salmon & caviar, creme fraiche & dill
Homemade chicken liver & smoked bacon pate with fruit chutney & toasted brioche
Portobello mushroom & Welsh cheese rarebit with dressed rocket (V)

Main Course

Roast turkey with chipolatas, sage & pistachio stuffing and real turkey gravy
Roast sirloin of beef with stilton sauce, sauteed mushrooms, roast vine tomatoes
& double cooked maris piper chips
Pan fried sea bass fillet with a wild mushroom risotto
Slow roast lamb shank with crushed herb new potatoes, seasonal veg & red wine jus

Roast meat dishes are accompanied with the following:
rosemary roast potatoes, sprouts with toasted pine nuts & crispy smoked
bacon, honey roast carrots, braised savoy cabbage

Vegetarian

Spicy tomato and soft herb linguine finished with oven roast cherry tomatoes
Homemade Glamorgan sausages with tomato, red onion & basil salad, balsamic reduction
Welsh goats cheese & caramelized red onion tartlet with beetroot syrup

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Glamorgan GEM

Food for Thought

RELY ON THE VALE AND AVOID THE OFFICE PARTY PITFALLS

by PHILIP IRWIN

CHRISTMAS comes around once again and it is time to make those important decisions about festive celebrations.

For some people, the period leading up to Christmas can mean a whole string of meals, parties and discos.

There are family celebrations to be organised, often revolving around the choice of whether to have that big Christmas Day meal

at home – or to eat out and be waited upon and avoid the inevitable hassle and stress of serving a feast at home.

There are often office parties to be fitted in to the month, and the choice there can be overwhelming!

It doesn't end there, of course, because societies, clubs, voluntary groups and other organisations are all likely to be organis-

ing a Christmas do.

The bright side is that in the Vale, there is a huge choice of places and venues that are offering a quality, good value Christmas experience – with an even wider of styles of cooking!

DAUNTING

December can be a daunting social marathon, so it pays to plan ahead and, even though we are still in September, there are huge advantages in getting

ahead of the mad rush.

After all, there is nothing more frustrating than finally getting round to making a decision, only to find that your choice is booked up!

Let's consider the family get together first – and it need not be a straight choice between eating in or eating out on Christmas Day.

A family meal out – perhaps in the days leading up to Christmas – can take the pressure off the home event.

There is always great pressure to get Christmas Day right, and tempers will get frazzled.

The knowledge that the family have already enjoyed a relaxing time eating out and looking forward to Christmas can really take the pressure off.

You can all sit down and watch *It's a Wonderful Life* (again) and take it all a great deal easier!

Perhaps the most straightforward is a Christmas dinner for a society, club or voluntary group, because in this case the members tend, by definition, to have similar interests.

With these groups, there is usually general agreement on the type of venue, and on the amount that members want to spend.

The main issue is finding a suitable venue at a price that comes in within the agreed parameters.

When it comes to organising office parties, there is even more reason for planning ahead.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 27



Christmas at . . .

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MAINS

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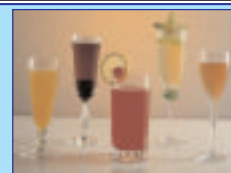
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Glamorgan GEM

Food for Thought



Make an early decision on your Christmas party venue - AND AVOID THE PITFALLS OF BOOKING 'LAST-MINUTE'!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

It is always going to be difficult to get a consensus on where to eat, but at least if you start the decision-making process early, you have a better chance of choosing a venue

that meets with the approval of the maximum number of people.

Leave it late, and you can guarantee a proportion of disgruntled diners who feel they were presented with a fait accompli.

RESEARCH

Of course, what many businesses do is delegate the matter to one or two 'lucky' individuals, who are asked to sound out opinion, do the research and then come up with suggestions.

This 'short straw' has the potential to turn into a poisoned chalice, but there is also the chance of glory if all goes well.

The problem with office parties, of course, is keeping different ages and temperaments happy - a difficult task at the best of times.

In an office or business do, there is usually a much wider spread of ages and temperaments - an age gap between different workers is never wider than at the Christmas party.

There are culture clashes when it comes to music, fashion, food and especially when it comes to drink.

If you are under 30, check how many

of the office over-50s have a clue about what a 'Jaegerbomb' is - and you will see the age gap in total clarity.

However, good planning can overcome most of these pitfalls, which only goes to emphasise how important it is to make an early decision to make sure that you book the package that you need.

And one real bonus is that if you are planning to book your festive evening in the Vale, you are totally spoiled for choice.

All you could need, from the cosy and intimate, to the ballroom with hundreds of diners and entertainment as well, can be found here, and the keen competition between venues has driven the levels of quality and service up and up.

A quiet country pub with good food? There are dozens, offering different

styles of cooking, from traditional hearty country fare to haute cuisine creations that can surprise and amaze you.

A classy restaurant? Again, look around the Vale and you will be spoiled for choice, with each establishment offering its own distinctive menu.

A hotel, with the option of staying overnight? Again, the Vale is well supplied with establishments that have a long history of offering fine service and fine dining.

Something a little more exotic? Here in the Vale there are restaurants offering the national cuisine from many countries, and again the competition has driven prices down and the quality up.

Christmas is an important time of

the year, and most people have high expectations.

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Christmas Fayre Menu

2 courses £13.95 3 courses £17.50

Children - Concession Prices

Starters

Spiced parsnip soup
served with crusty bread & butter

Farmhouse pork paté
served with cranberry & orange relish

King prawn cocktail
served with brown bread & butter

Pepper pot mushrooms
served with crusty bread

Main courses

Traditional turkey
served with pigs in blankets and sage & onion stuffing

Roast topside of beef
served with Yorkshire pudding & gravy

Shetland salmon
with lemon & garlic butter

Parsnip, cranberry and goats' cheese nut roast

All the above served with roast potatoes, new potatoes and season vegetables.

Main courses

Spiced apple & plum crumble

Irish cream cheesecake

Chocolate fondant

All served with fresh cream or vanilla pod ice cream

Christmas pudding

and brandy sauce

Or why not try one of our Christmas buffet menus?

Meat and roasties buffet

only £11.95

Roast breast of turkey

Cranberry sauce

Stuffing balls

Pigs in blankets

Roast topside of beef

Horseradish sauce

Yorkshire pudding

Roast potatoes

Gravy

Crusty rolls & baguettes

Christmas buffet

only £9.95

Sandwiches:

Turkey & cranberry

Beef & Horseradish

Stilton & chutney

Lamb kofta

Pigs in blankets

Stuffing balls

Mini toad in the hole

Japanese breaded prawns

Mince pies

Christmas Day and more...

3 courses £44.95 Children - Concession Prices

Starters

Stilton & broccoli soup

Smoked salmon & tiger prawns

Course country paté

Wild mushrooms on toast

Main Courses

Traditional turkey

Roast topside of beef

Sea bass fillets

Mediterranean pancakes

All the above served with roast potatoes, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Desserts

Chocolate brownie

Raspberry crème brûlée

Tarte au citron

Christmas pudding & brandy sauce

Welsh cheese & biscuits

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Boxer obtains sponsorship, but has to withdraw from big fight!



ABOVE: Barry boxer Lee Selby (centre) is now backed by Barry-based Nina Estate Agents.

BARRY boxing star Lee Selby has been forced to pull out of his British and Commonwealth title defence against Martin Lindsay in Belfast this Saturday with illness.

The brother of Barry Olympian Andrew Selby exploded onto the scene in the last year with stoppage victories over the previously undefeated Stephen Smith, John Simpson and tough

Ghanaian Patrick Okine. Lee was looking to make a statement that would put him in line for a shot at the European title, saying before the announcement: "I am very confident of doing the job against Martin Lindsay."

His trainer Tony Borg feels he can go right to the top. Speaking in an interview with Ciaran Gibbons, he said: "I honestly feel he can win a world title, I think within the next 12 months he will win the European and he is defi-

nately good enough for a world title."

Despite having to pull out of his defence, Lee has had the good fortune of finding a new main sponsor - Nina Estate Agents, also from Barry.

They are extremely excited about the prospect of working with Wales' up and coming superstar.

Lee said of the deal: "It's great to have a local company in Nina Estate Agents sponsoring me. Their support is really appreciated and I hope I can repay them."

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY by Harold Williams Weather playing is havoc with queen bees' lovelife!

THE beekeeping year is well advanced now, and what a year it is proving to be - as always, it is the weather that defines what can and cannot be achieved by the bees, and with the very wet and changeable conditions not much has been achieved so far.

Fon-Mon Apiary bees have been assisted in their survival by way of feeding with sugar syrup (sugar and water mix), as have all other bees under my control. Without this assistance the demise of many colonies would have occurred.

Will there be a honey crop this year? Certainly, but it will be a much reduced one if we decide to take any at all. Of the 10 hives in the apiary only two have been able to get by without intervention by me. Those that have had assistance will not of course be utilised as honey producers due to the fact that sugar syrup will be the contents of their honeycomb, not nectar awaiting conversion into honey.

How else has the weather been affecting the bees? As ever, swarming has occurred, and this perfectly natural occurrence is how the bees ensure the survival of their species. When a swarm issues from a hive it is the old queen that departs, taking with her a majority of the bees plus much of the honey/sugar syrup with them, as they know that wherever they land they must begin the task of building a new home.

To build this new home wax needs to be produced which in its turn requires a source of food, hence they depart carrying their energy needs with them. They do, however, leave behind a hive with a lesser population of bees and one in which the provision of a new queen has been assured.

This new queen has to be mated before she can produce eggs that will provide drones (males) and workers (females). Mating is carried out on the wing, and fine weather is essential for this to happen.

Thanks to the adverse weather conditions the new queens are not leaving the hive and consequently no mating with drones (she mates with 10/20 at least) is taking place. This omission does not mean that a queen can't lay eggs. It is just that any eggs she does lay will only emerge as drones.

What problems is this causing? Male bees are only in existence to fertilise new queens. They do not have a sting and cannot protect a hive, they do not have the ability to make wax, and they do not go out foraging.

Therefore, a hive whose population is made up of only a queen and drones is going to die due to the absence of the vital female bees. It is the ladies who do all of the work in a colony of honeybees!

So the beekeeping year is drawing to a close, and what have we yet to do? As always the varroa mite must be addressed and measures undertaken to reduce the ravages it can cause within a

colony of bees.

Equipment that is not now required, ie honey frames, must be stored in a manner that will not allow the two

species of wax-moth to invade them, as their predation can also add to the bees' and the beekeepers' problems.

But that is another

story and will be expanded upon in future articles. All in all, things could be worse, and next year will be better won't it?

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NO 6, 7 & 8, LAVERNOCK) PUBLIC PATH CREATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENT 2012

1. The above named agreement completed on the 3rd day of April 2012 has the effect of creating public footpaths by agreement with the landowner.
2. The effect of the agreement is to create:
Public Footpath 6, Lavernock from the County Highway known as Fort Road passing into Lavernock Nature Reserve and proceeding to a gate that leads to a concrete track.
Public Footpath 7, Lavernock that proceeds from the Nature Reserve north over a bridge, into a field adjoining Bay Caravan Park then following the edge of the field margin.
Public Footpath 8, Lavernock that continues from Public Footpath 7, Lavernock north around the field edge.
3. A copy of the agreement may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the agreement may be bought there at £4.50.
4. The agreement comes into operation with immediate effect.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 46, ST BRIDES MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH CREATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENT 2012

1. The above named agreement completed on the 8th day of March 2012 has the effect of creating a public footpath by agreement with the landowner.
2. The effect of the agreement is to create a public footpath from the coast car park at Ogmore-by-Sea (near Tryn Y March) proceeding in a north easterly direction across scrubland, past Portobello House and continuing north east before joining the adopted highway.
3. A copy of the agreement may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the agreement may be bought there at £4.50.
4. The agreement comes into operation with immediate effect.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 18, WICK; PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 46, ST BRIDES MAJOR; PUBLIC FOOTPATH 47, ST BRIDES MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH CREATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENT 2012

1. The above named agreement completed on the 8th day of March 2012 has the effect of creating public footpaths by agreement with the landowner.
2. The effect of the agreement is to create:
Public Footpath 18, Wick following the cliff tops near Traeth Mawr.
Public Footpath 46, St Brides Major that continues from Public Footpath 18, Wick along cliff tops from Traeth Mawr, around Cwm Bach and through Cwm Mawr before terminating at Dunraven Park.
Public Footpath 47, St Brides Major that proceeds from Dunraven Park up a set of concrete steps and along a verge to meet a County Highway.
3. A copy of the agreement may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the agreement may be bought there at £4.50.
4. The agreement comes into operation with immediate effect.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 49, ST BRIDES MAJOR) PUBLIC PATH CREATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENT 2012

1. The above named agreement completed on the 9th day of March 2012 has the effect of creating a public footpath by agreement with the landowner.
2. The effect of the agreement is to create a Public Footpath along the coast from West Farm through Park-Y-Slaid to Ogmore-by-Sea.
3. A copy of the agreement may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the agreement may be bought there at £4.50.
4. The Agreement comes into operation with immediate effect.

Dated this 27th day of September 2012
Director of Development Services
Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT



New gardens are open in Castleland



Jean Jones, Jenet Lockwood, Jane Hutt AM and Mayor Coun Les Sword.

VALE AM Jane Hutt, attended the opening of the Belvedere Park Gardens in Castleland, Barry, last week.

With Big Lottery funding and a great deal of hard work by local residents and volunteers, this new development was warmly welcomed.

Joining the AM at the opening ceremony were Barry Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, Coun Chris Elmore, local residents and children who use Castleland Community Centre, and the Drop in Centre team, including Jean Jones, the garden coordinator.

Jane Hutt said: "It was wonderful to see the Belvedere Park open and blooming as a result of hard work by local people.

"Local schools and businesses have all played their part to help establish the garden with Jean Jones supporting

volunteers. "With planting for every season, the park will always have a display of colour and foliage.

"I urge all to go and visit the gardens and the Castleland Community Centre to find out how they can get involved."

Dogs back on Vale beaches

FROM October 1, residents and visitors to the Vale are reminded that dogs are again welcome on Vale beaches.

The summer ban lifts from beaches at: Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Cold Knap, Barry Island and Penarth.

However, dog walkers are also reminded that the Vale Council is piloting a 'zero tolerance' to environmental crimes.

The cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "XFOR officers are patrolling

Vale wide and are watching for the incorrect disposal of litter - which includes animal faeces.

"We respectfully request that wherever you are - on the beach, visiting parks or walking along roads - that you should take enough bags to pick up after the dog you are walking. Once bagged and tied, you can then use any council bin to dispose of the waste, or take it home to be disposed of.

"Offenders should be aware that if caught, they will be issued with a fixed penalty notice £75 fine - there is no excuse."

MORE FIXED PENALTIES ARE HANDED OUT

LOCAL authority support company XFOR issued 59 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing September 17.

XFOR has been asked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering by taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning.

Fixed Penalty Notice offences specifically relate to the Environmental Protection Act (1990), Fouling of Land Act (1996) and Clean

Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005).

Legion's meeting

THE next meeting of the Royal British Legion (Barry Branch) will take place on Monday, October 8, at 2.30pm, in the Mayor's Parlour in Barry Memorial Hall.

All former servicemen and ladies who would like to attend this meeting will be given a warm welcome.

Rhose art group meets

THE Rhose Art Group annual exhibition and sale of paintings is on Saturday, October 6, 11am to 5pm in the Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhose.

Amelia Trust open day lets you get up close and personal with the farm's residents!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:

e-mail ffoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

AGAINST a backdrop of indecisive weather, the Amelia Trust Farm open day took place recently and, thankfully, saw good weather for the visitors.

With plenty of things for the family to do, and the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the residents of the farm, it made for a great day out, as Glyn Evans' pictures illustrate.



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00980/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Orangery to rear and side of property
Location:/Lleoliad: Sefton House, St Hilary
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Hilary

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/01006/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Renewal of planning permission 2007/00727/FUL for the conversion and alteration of existing buildings for 3 no residential units
Location:/Lleoliad: Greendown Inn, Drope Road, St Georges Super Ely
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Georges Super Ely

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/01013/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed alterations and extension to existing building to form 5 No. flats
Location:/Lleoliad: Amey Building, 2, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/01009/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Re-alignment of the War Memorial by complete dismantling before re-assembling with new fixings where necessary
Location:/Lleoliad: Town Hall, 21, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00971/EAR
Proposal/Cynnig: Development of Phase 1 of District Centre comprising Asda foodstore and two non food retail units, with associated petrol filling station, car parking, access works and landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: Powell Duffryn Way, Barry Waterfront, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00933/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig: Residential development for up to 150 dwellings with associated access, estate roads and public open space
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the West of Port Road, Wenvoe

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/01002/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Change of use of vacant barn to holiday let, bunkhouse and owners accommodation
Location:/Lleoliad: Garn Farm, St. Hilary

Application(s) with Environmental Statement / Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Powell Duffryn Way, Barry Waterfront, Barry.

I give notice that Asda Stores Limited, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Development of Phase 1 of District Centre comprising Asda foodstore and two non food retail units, with associated petrol filling station, car parking, access works and landscaping.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £15.00 (exc. VAT) from Nathaniel Lichfield and partners, 1st Floor Westville House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff. CF24 0EL, so long as stocks last. An electronic CD-ROM version of the environmental statement can also be purchased from Nathaniel Lichfield and partners for the cost of £50.00 (exc. VAT). Please contact Maria Wilson on 02920 435 880.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 18 October, 2012.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Operational Manager Development & Building Control at the address given below by 18 October 2012 quoting reference 2012/00971/EAR.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Powell Duffryn Way, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Asda Stores Limited, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfeirdd Development of Phase 1 of District Centre comprising Asda foodstore and two non food retail units, with associated petrol filling station, car parking, access works and landscaping

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £15.00 (exc. VAT) oddi wrth/o Nathaniel Lichfield and partners, 1st Floor Westville House, Fitzalan Court, Cardiff. CF24 0EL tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 18 October, 2012.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Rheolwr Gweithredol Datblygiad a Rheidiol Adeiladu erbyn 18 October 2012 a ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2012/00971/EAR.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dated / Dyddiedig: 27th September, 2012
M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

'Councillors' allowance bill to fall next year' – says new administration

THE annual table which shows how much Vale councillors have been paid was released recently – along with a statement insisting that it will be less next year.

The Labour party, supported by the Llantwit First Independents, took

power in May, and reduced the number of cabinet members with special responsibility from 10 to seven.

Some other posts which used to come with a special responsibility payment were scrapped as well.

In a statement, a Vale Council spokesperson said: "As a result of changes effected by the new administration,

by PHILIP IRWIN

there will be a reduction of about £67,000 in the cost of allowances paid for 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.

"In addition, other changes, including cuts to the level of allowances paid, will increase the total saving

to more than £120,000."

The spokesperson pointed out that the amounts paid to members as either basic or senior salaries are set not by the council, but by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The table (below) records councillors' allowances for 2011–2012, the final

year of the Conservative administration.

The table shows that all councillors received a basic allowance of £13,868.

Cabinet members received an extra £17,336, while the council leader, Coun Gordon Kmp, received a sum of £38,139 for serving as leader, plus £13,868, giving a total of £52,007.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Members' Allowances paid in 2011/12 for period: 01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012

List of Members	Basic Allowance	Responsibility Allowance	Other Expenses	Total
Alexander, M (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Bagstaff, S (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Bertin, R	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Birch, MEJ (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Bird, J	£13,868.00		£291.75	£14,159.75
Brooks, B (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Charles, J (Mrs)	£13,868.00	£17,336.00		£31,204.00
Church, P	£13,868.00	£17,336.00	£737.25	£31,941.25
Clifford, J	£13,868.00	£7,506.62		£21,374.62
Cox, GA	£13,868.00	£17,336.00	£830.90	£32,034.90
Curtis, RF	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Drake, P (Ms)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Egan, S	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Ellis, V (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Elmore, C	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Ernest, AM	£13,868.00	£17,336.00	£794.55	£31,998.55
Fraser, J	£13,868.00	£9,708.00		£23,576.00
Hacker, E	£13,868.00		£603.85	£14,471.85
Hampton, A	£13,868.00	£17,336.00	£1,001.50	£32,205.50
Hartrey, V (Mrs)	£13,868.00		£45.00	£13,913.00
Hatton, K	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Hodges, NP	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
James, HW	£13,868.00	£17,336.00	£183.90	£31,387.90
Jarvie, TH	£13,868.00	£22,537.00	£891.45	£37,296.45
John, G	£13,356.00			£13,356.00
Johnson, FT	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Kelly Owen, M (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Kemp, G	£13,868.00	£38,139.00		£52,007.00
Kemp, K (Mrs)	£13,868.00	£11,236.60		£25,104.60
Moore, AJ (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Moore, N	£13,868.00	£9,708.00		£23,576.00
Osborne, CL	£13,868.00	£800.61	£328.20	£14,996.81
Preston, A (Mrs)	£13,868.00		£985.20	£14,853.20
Randall, M (Mrs)	£13,868.00	£4,161.00		£18,029.00
Sharpe, S (Mrs)	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Thomas, J	£13,868.00	£9,708.00		£23,576.00
Thomas, R	£13,868.00		£640.90	£14,508.90
Traherne, R	£13,868.00	£17,336.00		£31,204.00
Turner, D (Mrs)	£13,868.00	£17,336.00		£31,204.00
Wiliam, S	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Wilkinson, M (Mrs)	£13,868.00	£9,708.00		£23,576.00
Williams, CJ	£13,868.00	£9,708.00	£334.90	£23,910.90
Williams, Clive A	£13,868.00	£9,708.00		£23,576.00
Williams, ET	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Williams, S (Ms)	£13,868.00	£9,708.00		£23,576.00
Wilson, M	£13,868.00			£13,868.00
Wright, M (Ms)	£13,868.00		£44.75	£13,912.75
TOTAL	£651,284.00	£291,024.83	£7,714.10	£950,022.93

Vale Council offers free food hygiene training

THE Environmental Health department of the Vale Council is offering free food hygiene training for local food businesses this autumn.

Those interested in attending one of the free training days in Barry can choose from dates in October and November.

The training course available is a CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering, formerly known as the Basic

Food Hygiene Certificate, which takes place over one day. A half-day food safety management system workshop is also being offered.

Only one representative from each food business may apply to attend and spaces are offered on a 'first come first served' basis.

To book a place on one of the courses, contact Public Protection on 01446 709105. Bookings are being taken for dates in October.

'Brew for the Few' helps Barry RAFA



VLE MP Alun Cairns hosted a fundraising 'Brew for the Few' event last week to support the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) Barry branch.

The now annual event was held at The West House Hotel, Llantwit Major.

Mr Cairns welcomed RAFA members, local residents, representatives from the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum and the Mayors of Llantwit Major and Barry, who all helped raise money at the coffee morning – vital funds for the friendship and welfare support of RAF personnel.

RAFA has more than 35 branches across Wales, and the Vale branch is based in Barry.

Mr Cairns said: "There is a widely held perception that RAFA only help airmen and airwomen who fought in

World War Two. This is absolutely not the case. RAFA supports those who have served in more recent conflicts.

"RAFA relies on the generosity of the public and its members to raise funds, and that's why I was delighted to work with Geoff Horton, chairman of the Barry RAFA branch, to arrange and host this coffee morning at The West House Hotel in Llantwit."

Geoff Horton added: "I was most grateful to Alun Cairns as our MP for hosting our event again this year."

"All the money raised goes into welfare work within the RAF Association and 20 per cent is returned to me, as the branch honorary welfare officer, which allows me to continue my work supporting those former RAF and/or their partners, within the community."

"Advice or help is available by contacting me on 01446 740522 or via email geoff@horton.co.uk."

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Absorbing all that new information can take time, but we can help!

IT takes time to absorb new information and getting too much at once can be confusing. It could take a couple of repeats before it sinks in.

At the introductory talk at the first meeting of the new season, visitors to the club were warmly welcomed and assured that each would be given the opportunity to progress at a speed that would be comfortable for him or her.

It was also emphasised that the club is friendly and members do not take themselves too seriously. Most importantly, the club aims to direct its programme to respond to the needs of the members.

The introduction briefly covered the way in which the club operates and then noted that in response to demand, there would be more opportunity to ask questions and to discuss problems of immediate concern to members there and then.

Similarly, the programme would be more loosely arranged.

Members can keep up to date on programme adjustments on our website.

One question was: "Which computer should I buy?" Mike J helpfully suggests writing out what you want the machine to do for you and bringing the result for more detailed discussion. Some help is on our website (forum

pages, June 20 2010, 'Choosing a computer'. Other questions concerned problems identified by error messages (pleased to note that the error messages had been brought along).

As is often the case, although we were unable to give a definitive solution to the problem, we were able to offer thoughts on how to approach it.

The very fact that it is being discussed means that people are getting to know a bit more about computing.

For instance, one error message indicated an inability to find a DLL file – ie, a file named 'something.DLL'. The DLL stands for Dynamic Link Library, and every computer will have many such files. Each DLL contains the code to carry out a small task and is designed to be available to any application.

This is more efficient than having to include the same code wherever it is needed. Each application simply calls for it from where it is stored on the computer.

The questioner had been deleting unwanted programmes from his machine and somehow the file had been deleted, although it was still wanted. It shouldn't happen, but some applications are not as good as they should be about uninstalling themselves.

There were several things he could try, from using a restore point (if he has one) to Googling the filename and finding a copy to download and add to his computer.

If a particular application is unable to find it, re-installing the original application might re-install a copy of the DLL.

That leads on to another topic on how to deal with installing applications from random sources and be able to forestall that sort of problem in the first place, but that is for another time.

For more programme information visit our website at: penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond chairman

Nurses in line for top award

NURSES from Cardiff and Vale UHB are in the running for a national award.

Lead colorectal nurse Jane Cadogan and coloplast community specialist stoma nurse Pip Chandler, have been shortlisted in the Gastrointestinal Innovation category at the British Journal of Nursing Gastrointestinal Awards 2012 for their work with patients.

Gordon rediscovers long forgotten talent for art in retirement

A 73-year-old former coal miner who lives in the Garw Valley discovered a hidden skill late in life – the ability to produce high quality portrait drawings.

Gordon Farmer was born in 1939 in Lluest, Pont-y-rhyl, and at the age of 15 years went to work at the Ffaldau Colliery in Pontcymmer. He was employed there for 12 years and then worked for a plating company and a quarry company.

While in his final job, an accident on a blustery day ended his career.

"In the quarry I was struck by a huge sign, 10 feet long, and reinforced with steel.

"It badly injured my leg, which ballooned up, and it was only saved thanks to antibiotics. The accident also damaged my spine badly."

In the year 2000, Gordon was forced to retire, but then he discovered a long forgotten artistic side.

"Due to my eyesight I was not able to paint, but with a pencil I was able to rub out and start again.

"I experienced a real 'journey' in drawing and arrived at a stage where I could draw a pretty good portrait."

Apart from drawing a farm yard once for his children when they were young, Gordon hadn't drawn since he had been at school decades earlier.

As you can see from the examples reproduced by The GEM, Gordon is doing himself a disservice when he says 'pretty good' because his work has been warmly received by people who have seen examples of it.

Max Boyce was delighted with a portrait Gordon drew of him. Among the subjects Gordon has specialised in are Welsh rugby union legends, the Royal Family, war veterans, animals and birds.

Married to Moyra in 1960, the couple still live in the house they purchased Garw Fechan Street, Pont-y-rhyl where they brought up their four children.

Gordon said: "It cost £375 and was built in 1876, the year General Custer met his match with the Indians!"

Gordon, who is in constant pain, has found solace in his drawing.

"It's the only thing I can do now. The nerves in my spine are damaged and it is very painful.

"Drawing is a therapy and when I am drawing I am in another world and out of the discomfort."

by TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE:
Gordon and his wife Moyra
pictured outside their house.



ABOVE: Max was delighted with
Gordon's portrait of him.



ABOVE: William and Kate.

BELOW:
Gordon also has the knack of
capturing man's best friend!



ABOVE:
Welsh legend Mervyn Davies.

Carers' centre backs Macmillan Cancer Support

BRIDGEND Carers' Centre is hoping to help a cancer charity raise a massive £10.7m – by drinking coffee.

The centre will join thousands of people across the UK when they take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on September 27 to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support by holding a Chinese-themed event.

The event is being held in Bridgend Carers' Centre, Park Road, Bridgend from 10.30pm–2pm, and anyone is welcome to attend.

GUESTS INVITED TO SHARE ST ATHAN SUNSET CEREMONY



THE Commanding Officer MoD St Athan, Wing Commander Paul Regan was joined by MPs, Welsh Ministers, local dignitaries and Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force Officers as they hosted the Station's annual reception.

The evening provided the opportunity for MoD St Athan personnel to thank distinguished guests and members of the community for their continued support.

Guests came from across the Vale and beyond, and included: the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones; Vale MP Alun Cairns; Bridgend MP Madeline Moon; Welsh Government Minister and Vale AM Jane Hutt; and the Lord Lieutenant for the County of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck.

Also in attendance were the High Sheriffs of South and Mid-Glamorgan, together with various other local dignitaries, councillors and community members.

Wing Commander Regan said, "The local communities surrounding MoD St Athan have always supported, and continue to support, military personnel and their families in so many ways.

"It is nice for us to be able to show our appreciation for their hard work in a more social setting, and to share with them some of our long-held traditions, such as the Sunset Ceremony".

The evening concluded with hosts escorting their guests to the front of the Officers' Mess to view the Sunset Ceremony.

As they watched, the Parade of Royal Air Force Trainees from Number 4 School of Technical Training came to attention and gave the General Salute as a single black Hawk aircraft flew overhead towards the setting sun.

A lone bugler played as the Royal Air Force Ensign was lowered and the parade marched away, under the order of the Parade Commander, Flight Lieutenant Nick Carter.

Wing Commander Regan added: "We were delighted that a Hawk aircraft from RAF Valley was able to provide a fly-past to mark this

annual reception, especially with the First Minister in attendance.

"The aircraft was from Number 4 Squadron, RAF Valley and was flown by Flight Lieutenant Luckins, and we have been very fortunate that the flexibility of their night flying programme has allowed for our event to be included in their training programme, and as expected, Flight Lieutenant Luckins was on time and on target."



ABOVE: Wing Cdr Regan with
First Minister carwyn Jones.

Autumn – time of ritual and apparitions!

THE GEM's paranormal correspondent, Hayley Williams, looks at the myth and magic of autumn.

The colourful season of autumn is from the old Latin word autumnus, and traditionally occurs between September 21-24 each year.

Fall often refers to autumn, and the term fall is the Old Norse word for feallen and the old English for fwell. The first day of the 'fall' takes place with the Autumnal Equinox, which is said to begin around September 22.

The word 'equinox' comes from the Latin for equal night, and is one of the only days of the year that the sun crosses the celestial equator, which is spherical in shape, similar to the Earth's equator.

The days begin to get shorter and nights longer from the time of the Summer Solstice (June 21), but with temperatures dropping during the months of September, October and November, it seems that the world is in preparation for the winter months.

The leaves transform in colour and begin to fall from the trees, with nature changing its normal routine to suit the occasion, by hoarding food in readiness for hibernation or migration to warmer climes.

Britain associated autumn with the celebration of the gathering of crops and fruits of the land. But with the skies darkening in preparation for winter, it is a time when all living creatures and humans begin to imagine the harshness of the cold winter period ahead.

Quotes from the poem by John Keats, 'Ode to Autumn' (which my mother and I studied for 'A-Level' years ago), describes the season perfectly with the opening words 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, close bosom-friend of the maturing sun. The season of bounteous fecundity, a time of mellow fruitfulness'. In poetical terms, he describes the season with melancholy.

Before the 16th century, the word 'Harvest' was widely used, as people were working the land and reaping the crops. But the term harvest became lost in time and was eventually replaced with the expression autumn.

Traditions of the world for the Autumn Equinox are remembered with Higan, a weeklong celebration of remembrance where the custom of visiting family graves was important for the cleaning of tombstones, decorating them with flowers, and the burning of

incense sticks.

Praying for ancestors with the offering of food was a long-established tradition from an era of ancient times.

Another practice involved the gathering of crops and fruits to be blessed by the local priest and used for medicines by preserving them for the year ahead.

Feasting during the equinox was a celebration. Folk would cook a fattened goose with ginger, which was thought to be symbolic for the season. This root spice also introduced gingerbread and ginger beer.

A gory ritual of the corn-spirit involved young maidens who would be given the task of cutting the last corn. Savagely, when they became older in age and bearers of children, they would be slain and buried in fields, with water poured upon their graves to resemble rain charms.

The blood of passing strangers was drained too and mixed with ashes and seed-corn to ward off evil spirits. They were killed in the belief that they were manifestations of the corn-spirit escaping from the freshly farmed corn. These rituals are now, thankfully, buried in history.

Autumnal ghostly tales seem abundant at the time of the Equinox, with the frightful spectacle of armies of Roman soldiers marching across the hillside and down into the valley accompanied by a headless horseman.

These ghostly images are said to manifest at every crossroads throughout Wales at midnight on the eve of the equinox.

Old roads seem to attract mystical thieves wearing tan coloured clothing. They tramp the streets of Wales carrying sacks of stolen food on their backs while carrying hobby lanterns.

Eerie sounds from invisible children have also been heard at this time of year, with their loud singing echoing across the land throughout the ages. But where could these sounds from children be from, and why would they want to continue singing in an age beyond their time on the earth's plane?

Fact or fiction? It's up to you to decide...

A spooky Halloween Ghost Talk and Walk takes place on Sunday, October 28 at 6pm from the Swan Inn, Nottage, Porthcawl. £2.50 on entry.

Hayley Williams
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

PENCOED RFC ROUND-UP

Second team edge a thriller

Rhys Samuel crosses for Pencoed Firsts.
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK



MAESTEG QUINS SECOND XV 26
PENCOED SECOND XV 27

THIS was an outstanding result for a depleted Pencoed Second XV in the Llynfi Valley.

Two breakaway tries saw the Quins going into the final 15 minutes with a 26-15 lead.

Urged on by veteran forwards Keith Burke, Alun Halse, and Gareth Roberts the team responded superbly with Ashley Halse arguably Pencoed's top performer along with the ultra competitive spirit of the experienced Roberts.

Two tries came from the influential Burke, and one each from Lloyd Bargery and Ian Gill. Simon Partridge dropped a goal, and scrum half Ben Read added two conversions, which included the all important match winner.

Other players who caught the eye were Shaun McKenna, and replacement Lee Powell.

Hopefully the Second XV will build on this superb win in the circumstances, and return to something like full numbers for the league match at Nantymoel on Saturday.

PENALLTA YOUTH 34
PENCOED YOUTH 21

AN under-strength Pencoed Youth side met a very big home side, who effectively won the match with three tries in the opening 10 minutes.

Tries for Pencoed came from James Tredray, Jamie Penson and Ryan Russell.

Once again, Shane Izatt shone with his defensive capabilities.

On Saturday, Pencoed meet Porthcawl at home in the league.



Richie Samuel notches another try for the first team.

CAERNARFON LADIES 17
PENCOED PHOENIX 19
PHOENIX had to travel to Llangefni on Anglesey for this Senior Women's National Championship League 1 match due to pitch improvement work at Caernarfon RFC.

The under strength Phoenix squad rose to the occasion superbly, coming back from 14-0 to seal victory in the closing moments of the delight of their players and supporters.

The five-hour journey may have had something to do with Caernarfon setting up a 14-point lead midway through the first half, and things looked ominous for Phoenix.

However, once again it was the Phoenix pack, who never knows when it is beaten, who gradually turned the match around.

Phoenix, with the breeze behind them in the second half, played the territory game and with their pack now on top, particularly at the scrumage, pinned the home side in their own 22.

Constant pressure on the home line from the Phoenix pack got its reward, scrum half Louise Jones capitalising on her forwards' efforts to dive over a mass of bodies for the touchdown; outside half Robyn Wilkins convert-



Aaron Songhurst looks to break.

ed from half-way out. The Phoenix team and supporters began to sense they could turn the match around, and a tactical change made at the interval involving Nerys Lloyd was to reap rewards.

Lloyd, now switched from the pack to centre, broke into the home 22, with Hannah Seward carrying on the attack before the looping Wilkins somehow squeezed in at the corner, and it was now game on at 14-12.

Caernarfon then kicked a penalty, but from then on Phoenix dominated through their pack the rest of the match.

With their scrum-mage now forcing Caernarfon into disarray, Phoenix No8 Amy Stevens picked up and some clever interplay with right wing Seward down the right hand touchline saw the sup-

porting Wilkins just held up. Phoenix were not to be denied however, and constant scrum-mage pressure in the home 22 with front five forwards Hannah Brunskill, Leigh Francis, Michele Halse, Molly Humphreys and skipper Lowri Reeves, they got what they deserved.

Moving the ball from the scrum-mage deep in the Caernarfon 22 Wilkins fed Lloyd on the crash, the centre powering over, Wilkins slotting the match-winning conversion just inside her right hand upright.

For Phoenix, flankers Kathryn Stonehouse and Abbie Mills also got through a lot of work and with several candidates for Phoenix player of the match it was Amy Stevens who was chosen by the Caernarfon team.

TR



The funding will improve the changing facilities at Pandy Park.

Funding boost for Pandy Park

SPORTING and recreational facilities close to a new housing development in the Sarn area will benefit from a cash injection thanks to an agreement between Bridgend County Borough Council and Barratt Homes.

The council and Barratt have

agreed funding to improve facilities for the local area, following the growth of Barratt's Parc Tyn y Coed development.

These will include improvements to play and informal recreational facilities on open space allocated at the development.

There will also be a facilitator for the nearby Pandy Park playing fields, especially the changing

facilities, to meet increased demands. BCBC will work with users of the fields in the near future to agree the jointly-funded improvements required there.

Other funding has been provided by Barratt to meet additional education needs generated by Parc Tyn y Coed, and also to contribute towards the future maintenance of new recreational facilities.

ST JOSEPH'S POWER GAME JUST BEATS ATHLETIC YOUTH

BRIDGEND Athletic Youth welcomed St Joseph's, Cardiff to Newbridge Fields for the second home game of the season.

It was clear from the outset that this was a very powerful and experienced St Joseph's side and they scored the game's first try after eight minutes after some excellent offloading and powerful forward play.

The try was not converted.

St Joseph's continued strongly, with the Athletic having to up their game to stay in the match.

St Joseph's, however, scored their second try after 22 minutes in a similar manner to the first, scoring wide out from a powerful rolling maul.

Again, the conversion was unsuccessful, making the score 10-0.

At this stage, many teams might have been overwhelmed but this young Athletic team, who started the match with nine of last year's

under-16 players, really dug deep with the much smaller pack holding their own. Some excellent defence in the backs from Jack Evans and Matthew Wilson held the score at 10-0 at half-time.

In the second half, the Athletic Youth began to wear down the bigger St Joseph's players with the hard pre-season training beginning to pay off.

The Athletic backs made numerous strong runs, with Chris Price and Tom Jenkins taking some excellent angles.

Despite spending the

bulk of the second half in the St Joseph's 22, they could not break down their defence until towards the very end, when excellent Athletic attacking play led to an opportunist try by Liam Phillips. The conversion failed, making the final score 10-5.

While going down to defeat, there was some satisfaction in that this Athletic youth side have the spirit to stand up to bigger and older sides, and this can only be good for the rest of the season.

MP

Llantwit punish Newport side with last minute goal

FOLLOWING two weeks of playing in Cup fixtures, Llantwit Major AFC returned to Welsh League action with an away fixture against Newport Civil Service.

On a beautiful afternoon the Major kicked off and quickly settled, dominating the early play with some neat possession play but unable to play that final ball through to create a real chance on goal.

The home side then settled and there was plenty of attacking play in both halves but with few shots at goal. On 20 minutes Jack Lansdown in the Llantwit goal made a great save as the home side started to take control of the game with some fine possession and midfield play.

Following some poor defensive play by the Major, the Newport side took the lead with a simply taken shot on target when the Major should have cleared their lines much earlier.

On 25 minutes the Major struck back, the play coming from a great

through ball by Lewis finding Roscrow in the clear just outside the area. He controlled well and scored a great goal from the edge of the penalty box.

With just half an hour gone the Major were forced to make a substitution and also re-arrange their back four when midfielder Faux suffered an accidental knock to the head and defender Vincent came on to replace him.

Then, just before half-time Lansdown cleared well and lone striker Nash headed on for the Llantwit winger to control well and unselfishly cross for Tom Rees to tap in neatly and the Major went in 2-1 up at half-time.

The second half got underway and the Major won three successive corners in as many minutes resulting in two good shots at goal, one of which was well saved by the home keeper and the other blasted way over the bar.

It was the home side who then started to play with some good possession and attacking football.

Ten minutes into the second half they

equalised from a well-

won corner when a firmly struck cross was powerfully headed in at the near post by their striker.

Both teams then had chances – the best one coming from some neat footwork by the youngster Adam Roscrow, finding the veteran full-back Shaw, who neatly returned the ball to Roscrow who shot well with the home keeper saving well and putting the ball out for a corner.

With the final whistle due the home side broke away and a scuffle for the ball between Vincent and the Newport striker resulted in the referee blowing for a free-kick just as the ball crossed the line.

The home side were not happy at all with the decision and the referee branded the yellow card

for dissent.

The disappointment of the disallowed goal got worse for the home side when Shaw battled through from his defensive role and struck a firm shot from well outside the penalty area. The shot was going well wide until it took a deflection and found the top corner of the net, beating the wrong-footed Newport keeper and putting the Major 3-2 in front in injury time.

The referee blew for full-time with the visitors elated but the home side very disappointed with their last kick of the game defeat.

Squad: Lansdown, Shaw, Robinson, Cox, T Rees, Lewis, Morgan, Jones, Faux, Roscrow, Lindsay, Nash, Whitlam and Vincent.

PL

Bridgend Chess start season well

BRIDGEND got off to a good start in the first match of the season in Division 2 of the East Glamorgan chess league, playing against a strong Penarth team and winning by three games to two in a hard-fought encounter.

MK



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Family Notices

MORGAN Vivian

Suddenly but peacefully with his family on September 21st, Viv, much loved husband, father and uncle will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, October 4th at 12 noon followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent Awel-y-Mor Nursing Home, Brynafon Road, Gorseinon, Swansea.

WALTERS
Leslie James (Les)

Bravely passed away at home in Ogmose-by-Sea in the tender care of his loved ones - a devoted dad and cherished brother of Iris and Megan.

Resting at David Wilde Chapel of Rest, Mawdlam, North Cornelly until the Funeral on Tuesday, 2nd October, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired to the Macmillan Nurses or Marie Curie Nurses.

Enquiries to Brian Thomas Funeral Director, Bridgend, telephone 01656 668967.

REES
Richard Anthony Severn (Tony)

Born in Treforest 9th November 1922.
Died 20th September 2012 at Llandough Hospital.

Much loved husband of Joy, father to Vicki, Rupert and Alex and grandfather and great grandfather. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends in Llantrithyd and beyond. Funeral and burial will be at 3pm on Friday 28th September at Llantrithyd church. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers for The Brooke Hospital for Animals or 'Valleys Kids'. Enquiries to Andrew Thomas funeral directors, 01446 775681.

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NEWS FROM WENVOE CASTLE GOLF CLUB

Top Ladies' Golf Union event at Wenvoe Castle

RECENTLY, Wenvoe Castle hosted the area final of the prestigious Ladies' Golfing Union Coronation Foursomes.

Qualifying competitions had been held at golf clubs throughout the region and the winning pairs selected for the area final. The winners of the area final would be rewarded with an all-expenses-paid trip to the home of golf at St Andrews in Scotland, and compete in the grand final against the winners from the other finals.

Not surprisingly there was a high entry for the competition with more than 100 players taking part travelling from all areas of Wales, the Midlands and the south west of England.

The winning pair, with an excellent 36 points, was Sarah Rees and Kay Harcombe from St Mary's Golf Club.

Later in the morning Ann Hazelwood and Michelle Underwood from Fingle Glen Golf Club came close and took second place with 35 points.

To add to the tension the final pair of the day, Vivienne Rees and Angela Airey from Gower Golf Club, looked likely to post the winning score but just came up short and finished third with 34 points.

Sheila Williams of Brynhill Golf Club was the representative of the Ladies' Golf Union at the area final and presented the winning pair with their prize.

The Ladies' Golf Union also presented club captain Norman Robbins with a special plaque to commemorate the day. Barrie Jones, club vice captain, was also presented with a memento given to all area final managers in recognition of their work

in organising and managing the event.

Club finals day

WENVOE Castle Golf Club traditionally holds the finals of the various competitions over consecutive Sundays – allowing for players reaching the finals not to have to play twice on the same day.

The first Sunday saw the completion of all but one competition and the weather on the two days was at the two extremes. Luckily, on the first Sunday, the course was played in fine and sunny conditions.

Despite the downpour on the second Sunday, the course remained playable, which was a testimony to the excellent drainage and some help from the squeegees on the greens.

On the opening Sunday the nine club finals played with the Club Championship and Ladies' Championship, played over 36 holes.

Included in a busy programme were the Hallett Cup final on the first Sunday and the final of the Hallett League and Plate competitions played the following week.

These latter matches were between teams who have successfully fought their way to the finals stages and Wenvoe Castle is the traditional home for finals of the Hallett Society competitions.

More than 40 clubs throughout south Wales compete in the knockout stages and to reach the final is a considerable achievement.

The Wenvoe Castle Club Championship was contested by Sean Davies and Keith Stimpson, who was defending his trophy. The honours went to Sean, who can reflect on two important birdies at the end of the first round



The Men's Club Championship finalists Sean Davies (second right), and Keith Stimpson (second left), together with referee, club captain Norman Robbins (far right).



The Ladies' Championship finalists Sue Macpherson (second right, winner) and Lyn Williams (second left) together with lady captain Lynda Campbell (centre), who was the referee. Also shown are their caddies.

which turned the game in his favour.

The Ladies' Championship was between Sue Macpherson and Lyn Williams and Sue built up a commanding lead over the first 18 holes. A real battle ensued over the final round but Lyn couldn't quite close the gap and Sue was delighted to be crowned Ladies' Champion.

Other results on the first Sunday: **Men's competitions:** Robert Rickard Trophy – winner, Terry O'Grady; runner up, Nigel Kelly. **Dragon Trophy** – winner, Nigel Curtis; runner up, Ashley Griffiths.

H Regan Trophy – winners, Mark Falzon and Mark Green; runners up, Rob Campbell and Chris Jones.

Ladies' competitions: Bronze Championship – winner, Wendy Motton; runner up, Trish Walker.

Mary Fellows Bowl – winner, Barbara Beedham; runner up, Sheila Davies.

Blod Lewis Cup – winner, Debbie Jones; runner up, Heather Kinsey. **Mixed Competition:** Dr and Mrs AM Jones Trophy – winners, Sandra Cook and Andrew Evans; runners up, Delyth Thomas and Bobby Woodruff.

The second Sunday saw just the one remaining final where Barbara Beedham teamed up with

Sue Macpherson to play against Sheila Morrow and Lynda Hudd in the White Cup Foursomes.

The wet and windy conditions couldn't prevent an excellent contest which continued despite the greens becoming almost unplayable.

The excellent match finished at the 16th hole with Barbara and Sue taking the honours.

Mark Wilshire, head green keeper, and his staff were complimented on superb course condition.

Leigh Ivory – 'King of the Castle'

THE Castle Trophy has for a number of years provided the opportunity for top amateur golfers to test their skills at one of the best championship courses in the region.

This year the competition has been upgraded to be included in the Glamorgan Golf Union Order of Merit and gave an added incentive for the 'elite' golfers to gain merit points.

The competition was limited to players with a handicap of nine or less and significant prizes in the form of vouchers were available for the best gross and nett scores.

More than 60 players competed for the trophy and it was club member Leigh Ivory who posted two sub-par rounds of 71 and 71 to win with the

lowest score of 142.

Leigh was four strokes ahead of the second player – Mike Hearne of Southerndown Golf Club.

Two strokes further back was Alex Baker from the Vale Golf Club, while Jordan Price-Davies (Glamorganshire Golf Club) shared fourth place with Jack Bush (Morlais Castle Golf Club).

Leigh was presented with his trophy by club captain Norman Robbins. **Barrie Jones**

Llantwit Major Bowls Club hold men's finals

by NEVILLE YOUNG

LLANTWIT played their club finals recently and it was a well organised two days of bowling thanks to the competition secretary Alan Gibbard.

The main event was the club championship and it was a cracker, with two club leads against each other – Derek Mutlow versus John Crane.

It was nip and tuck at the start with both players on seven after five ends.

Then John bowled four good bowls with Derek only able to take one bowl out to give John a three-shot lead.

He increased this over the next few ends to lead by five shots. A good trailing shot by Derek produced two shots, John then came back with some ends to lead by 18 shots to 12.

Derek then played some excellent bowls to draw level at 20 shots apiece, with John winning the final end to take the match. A good final to watch!

In the Frank Rhodes Cup, Derek Mutlow played Tom Ingrovile.

Tom took four shots on the third end to take a six-shot lead. Derek clawed his way back to draw level on the ninth end; a further two on the

next end took him into the lead for the next four ends.

The lead kept changing until Derek took a three on the 15th to again come out in front. Tom then took command to dominate the final few ends to win by seven shots.

The Tyro Cup, for members who have not won a competition previously, was played between John Crane and Mike Harmon.

John is a much more experienced player than Mike, who was in his first year of playing in competitions, and this showed throughout the game.

John took a six-shot lead after four ends and with big counts of three and a four, overwhelmed Mike to win by 13 shots.

The Two Bowl pairs competition involved Eric Spark partnered by Richard George against Steve Booker and Ken Williams.

Eric and Richard were six up after six ends with Steve unable to find his touch. They never lost the lead scoring a three on the 14th end to put the result beyond doubt, and finishing with a win by seven shots.

The Two Bowl Handicap was played between Mike Adams

and Tom Ingrovile.

After Tom's win in the morning, he appeared drained from his exertions and lethargic and with Mike producing some excellent bowling the game was very one-sided – Mike romping away to win by 13 shots.

The Four Bowl pairs was the final game played on Sunday to complete the competitions.

It was contested by Graham Jones, partnered by Garry Williams, against David Johnes and Derek Lancaster.

David and Derek had taken a five-shot lead after five ends with Derek always giving them a good start.

Graham and Garry drew level on the 11th end with each side having eight shots. An excellent shot by David on the 14th end gave them five shots which tipped the balance in their favour.

Another three shots on the 16th end gave them an 11-shot advantage.

Graham moved the jack on the penultimate end to secure five shots, ensuring the final end had to be played, which the victors took with two shots, to win 21 to 13.

Sully Seconds edge out St Peters

BACK in action after a week off the previous Saturday, Sully Sports Seconds started brightly against a classy St Peters outfit.

Although playing up

the slope and against a cross wind, camped in the Rocks' 22 for the opening five minutes, they should have taken a very early lead, but outside-half Mike Saunders fluffed a simple 25-metre penalty.

Then, with their first possession from a scrum on their 22, St Peters swept the ball out and their backs showed pace, support and guile to cut through the home defence for an excellent 75-metre try.

For the next 10 minutes the Sports had to defend as St Peters showed their attacking prowess, then centre Marvin Cordle intercepted deep in his half, and sped away for a solo try, converted by Saunders.

Play was much more even for the rest of the half, with the Rocks using the slope and wind to gain some territorial advantage.

Ten minutes from the break, they used a blind-side move from a scrum five metres out to score a good, but unconverted try.

Minutes from the break, the Sports drew level as Saunders landed a successful penalty.

After the break it was over to the Sports to dominate possession and territory, but stout defence kept them at bay,

and St Peters were always dangerous as they moved the ball out wide with the small amount of possession they secured.

With only 15 minutes left, and having survived a prolonged Sports siege on their line, the Rocks turned over possession five metres out and broke out through their speedy backs. They were stopped on halfway by a last-ditch tackle, only for the Sports to infringe at the ensuing ruck.

A quick tapped penalty gave them the opening for a well-worked try, and the lead for the third time. Crucially, they failed again with the conversion.

The Sports once again camped deep in the visitors' 22, and with four minutes left, the assault had a successful conclusion, as prop Andrew Wheeler burst through the tight defence for a try to bring the scores level. The conversion was added by Saunders.

The Sports easily snuffed out the Rocks' desperate attempts to get within scoring range to clinch a well earned 17-15 win, built largely on the awesome efforts and workrate of the forwards, and some fine defensive work by the threequarters.

MJS

AGM for bowls club

LLANTWIT MAJOR Men's Bowls Club are holding their AGM on Wednesday, October 3 at 7pm in the bowls pavilion.

All members are urged to attend as selection of officers will be made and a number of vacancies need to be filled.

JY

Gary keeps up the form

THE penultimate fixture of the season for the Blacksmiths Golf Society took place at the well presented St Athan Golf Club.

In the stableford competition Philemon Williams tied with Gareth John but took the runner up spot by virtue of a superior back nine.

The winner was the man in form, Gary Nealon, who shrugged off a two-shot handicap cut to win by an impressive five shots.

Nearest the pin went to Roy Whitehouse, while golfing nomad John Campbell took time out from his national tour to hit the longest drive.

CG

Rhosee under-14s are up in seventh heaven

RHOSE under-14s were missing some key players but soon got into their stride against Wenvoe when Daniel Cope opened the scoring with an astute chip.

Michael Wilson's sweeping pass found Cameron Leach on the edge of the box and he let fly to score Rhosee's second.

Harry Morgan-Grant was a continuous threat throughout the game and was rewarded with a well-taken goal just before the interval.

In the second half, Wenvoe looked sharp and were unlucky not to score past keeper Matt

Cottingham who was in outstanding form.

Joe Hopkins and Patrick O'Carroll made some intricate passes to craft scoring opportunities for Rhosee.

Lee Bartlett worked tirelessly in the heart of midfield and his precision pass set up Josh Brown, whose excellent strike found the top corner.

Ryan Hughes looked solid in the centre of defence and used his speed to thwart the Wenvoe attack alongside Dylan White, who was unlucky not to get on the score sheet when his effort was well saved by the Wenvoe keeper.

Final score: 7-0. MB

Barry Seconds take revenge with a victory

BARRY RFC seconds continued their league campaign on a crisp autumnal afternoon, hoping to avenge their heavy defeat away to Llandaff last season in the Cup.

The home side carried the momentum created by last weekend's victory, and were the more spirited side right from the off, with Tom Griffiths and Callum Scott working hard in the boiler room.

Joe McCann once again conducted matters at outside half, and his attacking flair saw the ball spread to Ryan Case to score his first try for the club.

Dave Williams crossed for his fourth try of the season, whilst Andy Corne continued

his try-scoring form from last Saturday to wrest control of the game from Llandaff.

Cieran Thomas, returning to second team action after a long lay-off, made an instant impact off the bench and was the scourge of the Llandaff fly-half, leading an aggressive defensive line which was characteristic of his game.

Adam Lee added 16 points with his boot to seal the victory.

Team:
Lee; Taylor, Gooderham, D Williams, Case; J Williams, McCann; Heard, Elsworth, Corne; Griffiths, Scott; Rolfe (c); L Jones, McTavish.

Subs used: J Thomas, C Thomas, Westall, M Jones.
Man-of-the-match: Corne.

OLD PENARTHANS 44-7 BARRIANS
The Barrians finally returned to action with an away trip to familiar foes Old Penarthians.

The game began in scrappy fashion as neither side managed to create any flowing moves due to numerous handling errors, not helped by the strong wind.

Old Penarthians, however, dominated the set pieces and they began to use this as their major weapon against a new-look Barrians pack. They duly took the lead after a period of pressure in the Barry 22.

Rallied by player-manager Ken Chow, the Barrians responded with a period of pressure of their own, orchestrated by some fantastic tactical kicking from fly-half Ryan Corrigan, and good-forward drives from the pack, most notably from Glyn Pirso, Sion Vidal and Neil Fulton.

Their industry was rewarded when veteran Graham Matthews released debutant Glenn Griffiths to break through the Old Pens' defensive line, grounding between the posts. Corrigan converted the extras.

After two near-scores the home side finally got back ahead, capitalising on some strong carrying from their strike runners.

The Barrians were struggling to get off their own try-line as the pressure was piled on, and attempts to hang on until half-time were thwarted as the Old Penarthians added two more tries before the break.

The introduction of Andy and David Moffat into the fold did stem the tide early in the second half, as the away side threatened to mount a monumental, if unlikely, comeback.

Debutant Dave Moffat, in particular, showed some direct, powerful running, twice creating chances to break away to score, only to trip over his own feet both times to butcher the opportunity.

Instead it was the home side which ran away with it in the last quarter, capitalising on the tired legs to score more unanswered tries.

It was a credit to all the players who grafted for 80 minutes, and to enable the club to field three sides on one weekend.

With such endeavour and spirit, surely there will be more success on the horizon.

Team: N Jenkins; T Jenkins, Matthews, Griffiths, Chow (c); Evans, Corrigan; Pirso, Houldley, Jones; Fulton, Hall; Adams, Betts, Vidal. Subs used: Dyer, A Moffat, D Moffat, Boffy.
Man-of-the-match: Corrigan. **KC**

Arms Park the 'beating heart' of Welsh rugby

A MUST for all rugby fans is Bill O'Keefe and Emyr Young's *The Arms Park - heart of a rugby nation* (published by y Lolfa at £9.95).

The famous Arms Park, which was built on land given by the Marquess of Bute for the exclusive development of recreation for the people of Cardiff, was first used by cricketers.

This fascinating account of the Arms Park's history is illustrated throughout with archive and new photographs, combined with a lively narrative, to tell the story of a patch of land that was known all over the world.

I remember well when the stadium played host to the 1958 Empire and Commonwealth Games. As a member of Roath (Cardiff) Harriers, I had dreamed of taking part in the marathon which started and finished in the stadium.

Alas, I was not good enough to be selected and ended up as a steward showing people to their seats!

However, I did play a small part in those wonderful Games.

I was one of the escort runners to Ken Harris, a former Empire and Commonwealth Games athlete. It was the job of the escort runners to run alongside Ken from the Cardiff Royal Infirmary to the Arms Park, where he handed over a silver-gilt baton that contained a message from the Queen.

Once in the stadium, Ken handed the baton to former Welsh rugby international Ken Jones, who in turn handed it on to the Duke of Edinburgh to read out at the opening ceremony.

I was also one of the first athletes to compete on the track. Games officials wanted to try the track out so we held our club annual three-mile track championship on it.

I would like to say that I won that race, but I finished in fifth place.

From the famous win against the All Blacks in 1905 to the legendary tries by Gareth Edwards and Shane Williams, the Arms Park has proved to be the beating heart of Welsh rugby.

BRIAN LEE

Ploughing match 'well attended' as novices impress



Local experts Julian Radcliffe (Penmark), Alban Wilde (Stembridge) and Will and Dave Morgan (Marcross).



ABOVE: Jamie Isaac on an International 275.



Rhys Thomas of Cobvinston and John Fowler of Bridgend brought their vintage tractors.

FOLLOWING the huge success of the All Wales Ploughing Championships at Boverton two years ago, local enthusiasts formed the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society and have staged local matches.

This year a very well-attended event was held at Monkton by invitation of the Jeffreys family.

The Aberthyn Tractor Boys, who raise very large sums for charity, put on a splendid static display.

Classes included 'world style', vintage, modern reversible and 'have-a-go' for novices.

Basil George of Ogmere has ploughed for 70 years, first for the War Agricultural Committee in Oxfordshire, and as he was underage he was given special permission to drive on the 'King's Highway' as part of the

war effort. By contrast, two young men from Groesfaen were ploughing for the first time; though Jamie's father is a seasoned competitor another first timer was Josh from Bristol, a student from Hartbury College, doing a practical period with Julian

Radcliffe of Penmark. Julian said he really surprised Josh when he entered him for the match, but he certainly showed great aptitude. It is hoped that this competition of ancient and modern skills will continue for many years in the Vale.

Heather March

New chess season starts

THE new East Glamorgan Chess League has just started, and for the past three seasons the Barry Gambits have played in division three.

In each of these seasons they have narrowly avoided relegation into division four.

At the same time the Barry Quarks have played in division four. Over the past two seasons they have narrowly missed promotion.

Last season, however, they romped away with the title, winning the fourth division by a massive seven points. For the first time in my memory Barry, therefore, does not have any representation in the bottom tier.

The first match of the season was the eagerly awaited derby between the Quarks and the Gambits.

The Quarks were able to select a much

stronger team than the Gambits and expected to win on all five boards.

However, the Gambits were not prepared to let the reputations of the Quarks affect them and after a number of strong performances managed two draws and an outstanding win from our oldest and lowest graded player, Dave Adamson, meaning the Quarks could only win by a 3-2 margin.

Since that date the Quarks sit proudly at the top of the table after defeating a Penarth team 4-1. This was a superb performance because the Penarth team's individual grades suggested they should beat the Quarks!

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY, with matches starting at 7.30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed. **PJ**

Vale AM Jane Hutt welcomes Olympians and Paralympians



Jane Hutt AM with Tracey Hinton and her guide runner at the Senedd celebrations to welcome home Wales' Olympians and Paralympians.

WHEN the Welsh Olympic and Paralympic teams were welcomed home at the Senedd on September 14, Vale AM Jane Hutt was present to thank them for their tremendous exploits in London over the summer on behalf of the Vale.

The Assembly Member and Equalities Minister said: "It was wonderful to meet up with our Welsh champions at the Senedd, along with the crowds of people who came to greet

and congratulate them in Cardiff Bay.

"As well as meeting bronze medalist shot putter Beth Jones at the Senedd, I was also delighted to meet Tracey Hinton with her guide runner.

"I will be launching our Framework for Independent Living this week, which will strengthen our commitment to removing barriers for disabled people in all aspects of their lives - a strong message from the success of the Paralympics 2012."

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Top down Peugeot brings back whiff of the past!

DRIVING the Peugeot 207CC with the metal roof down has re-introduced me to aromas of the past.

I wasn't expecting it but memories of my late grandma came flooding back as I drove through the New Forest in Hampshire. Although I love plants and flowers, I couldn't tell you what scents tickled my nostrils, but I hadn't smelt them for almost 30 years when my gran used to do her flower arranging. There are so many unusual fragrances early in the morning when the world is waking up and you only really notice them when walking or, the next best thing, driving with the top down.

I suffer from hayfever and was concerned that driving with the roof down would cause a sneezing fit but, fortunately, pollen doesn't hang around long enough when the 207 cuts through it. While this two-door has four seats, the rear is only really suitable for small children - my daughter's baby seat only fits when my wife's seat is far forward, making it uncomfortable for her.

This Peugeot is ideal for the young and carefree, and should really do away with the rear seats altogether. Driving the little French number is an invigorating experience. The 1.6-litre petrol is punchy and the six-speed box is clunky and decisive. Its cruise control is simple to operate and there is also the option of limiting the speed travelled so that no matter how hard the accelerator is pushed it will not exceed the speed set.

The 207's boot is larger and better designed, as you can see by watching the video at testdrives.biz. As long as the cover is pulled over the luggage the user-friendly roof will retract.

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GEM sport

Athletic are put to the sword

BRIDGEND Athletic showed nine changes from the side that lost to Beddau as they travelled to top of the table Bargoed.

The home side continued their record so far of winning all games with a bonus point. Their overall power and movement playing down a large sloping ground saw them rack up 28 first half points, three tries from slick passing movements and two pushover tries.

A further three second half tries saw the lead increase to 43-0. However, to the Athletics' credit they did not give up and had the better of the final quarter.

During this period wing Kyle Dobbin went over in the corner. From the restart full back Lyndsey MacAuland

broke through the Bargoed defence and put supporting flanker Stuart Nation in under the posts. Steve Lewis converted to add a degree of respectability to the score.

For the Athletic, stand in captain Griff Davies was outstanding with good support from flanker Sean Williams (playing his debut First XV fixture this season).

Lyndsey MacAuland also played well and Aled Thomas and Stuart Nation helped up the tempo of the Athletic second half performance coming off the bench.

It is off to Gwent this weekend as the Athletic face the once mighty Pontypool who have fallen from grace in recent seasons. The coaches will be hoping to come away with something from Pontypool Park.



Calum McLeod makes a break.
PHOTOS KERRY FOTHERGILL

Bridgend Athletic Second XV 27 Penallta Second XV 17

Bridgend Athletic Second XV won a very entertaining game against their Penallta counterparts by 27 points to 17.

They gained a bonus point by outscoring the

visitors by four tries to two.

The Athletic try scorers were Liam Griffiths, Nick Jones, Rod Davies and Tom Cole, who also converted two of the tries and a penalty.

Prominent in a good all-round team performance were Nick Jones, Chris McGrath and Tom Cole. **AB**

PENCOED OUTSHINE THE STARS

PRIOR to the match against Aberavon Green Stars the players and supporters of both clubs observed a minute's silence in memory of former Pencoed player Darren Smith.

Pencoed opened their win column for the season with this comprehensive 44-5 win at the Recreation Ground.

Pencoed right wing Richie Samuel benefited from a quick tap penalty shot over in the corner to open the home scoring. Marc Davies converted with a fine kick.

Davies then scored a good individual try, selling an inside dummy pass to the Stars' defence before skipping over under the posts for a try he then converted.

Approaching half-time, Davies added a penalty for Pencoed to lead 17-0 at the break.

The home side increased their lead early in the second half following a close up catch and drive, hooker Tom Drew burrowing across.

Soon after the Samuels brothers were involved in the next score, back row forward Rhys with a double tackle initiating a Pencoed counter attack which ended with Richie weaving his way over from the opposition 22; Davies converted.

Substitute Tom Cross then showed good sight of hand to keep the ball alive before a switch in play saw wing Aaron Songhurst burst through from 30 meters to score.

A third yellow card for the Green Stars saw the home pack capitalize for No8 Gareth Prentice to drive over.

The visitors to their credit hit back immediately to register a well deserved try.

The final minutes saw the Green Stars pick up, incredibly, their fifth yellow of the match before home scrum half Tom Davies sent man of the match Richie Samuel over for his hat trick try.

On Saturday, Pencoed travel to Neath Athletic for a much sterner test. **TR**

SEE MORE PENCOED NEWS ON PAGE 29.

Kenfig Hill triumph over Skewen RFC

KENFIG Hill dominated this game against Skewen from start till finish, with the scoreline not reflecting the dominance.

After an early score from Matthew Legge, they went on to squander three chances after some excellent build up play, with debutant Mike Kennedy showing his ability at every opportunity.

Some poor discipline at the breakdown allowed Skewen to stay in the game. A Matthew Tossell try just before the break extended the half time score to 15-9.

The Mules turned around with the wind now at their back, and got straight into their stride, splitting the defence with ease, but then lacked a little composure and missed a few more chances.

The back row of Legge, Waller and Jason Davies were fantastic at the breakdown and in the loose.

Tylon Mafi finished a great team move in the corner after some great passing in midfield, converted by Nicky.

Skewen were then chasing the game and playing suicide rugby in their own 22, with the mules continuing the pressure.

Finally, the bonus point try arrived after a box kick by Tom Briggs was caught by Matthew Tossell in space and a great reverse pass saw



Matthew Legge forces his way through.
PICTURE BY PETER GILLING

another debutant, Dan Jones, score the try. A solid performance in what has been a tough place to go in recent years.

There were many great performances, but a special mention to Ashley Hickey whose line out throwing and work rate were fantastic, and Mike Kennedy, who has shown the future is bright!

KENFIG HILL SECOND XV 20 RUMNEY SECOND XV 18

The Mules' second string battled their way to their first league win of the season against an impressive Rumney outfit - showing great commitment along the way.

The Mules yet again started the game with an improvised backline with hooker Keiron

Tomlin making his third appearance as a winger, flanker Gareth Downs occupying the other wing berth and flanker Craig Williams turning out at scrum half.

The subs bench was made up of four of the backroom staff so the victory goes to show what could be possible once more players make themselves available for selection.

The game was played at a good pace with Rumney always looking to keep the ball alive whenever they had possession.

The Mules strength was in its scrummage where props Richie Matthews and Jamie Uren had the upperhand over their opponents.

They were aided by hooker Chris Leyshon, who had another storming display in the tight and the loose, picking up two tries in the process.

The Mules had the edge in the first half with tries from Chris Leyshon and flanker Dan Shaddis - one of which was converted by centre Lloyd Giles with.

Rumney just managed the one penalty to leave the score at the

interval Mules 12, Rumney 3.

Rumney dominated the second half and scored two tries of their own, a conversion and a penalty to a solitary Mules try from hooker Chris Leyshon to leave the score, with minutes remaining - Mules 17, Rumney 18.

The Mules were under the cosh and in the final 15 minutes were down to 14 players following the dismissal of Lloyd Giles.

The Mules gained some respite with a good break from winger Gareth Downs who was then tackled off the ball as he followed up his kick ahead.

The referee had no hesitation in awarding the Mules a penalty kick from a wide angle which was calmly slotted over by fly half Owen Davies.

The Mules controlled the game for the remaining two minutes to hold on to a hard-fought victory.

Mules' man of the match was centre and captain Alun Brace who led the defence by example, tackling ferociously for the whole 80 minutes. **MJ**



Steve Lewis looks to offload before a tackle.

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Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, September 19: First - Mike Best and John Beard; Second - Glyn Williams and Mel Humphries; Third - Mary Moore and Joan Jenkins.

Friday, September 21: First - Jane Brook and Wendy William; Second - Mary Moore and Tony Disley; Third - Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall, there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7pm with Graham Jones - all welcome.

To register an interest, contact Graham Jones on 01446 775952, Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Afternoon lessons are starting on Thursday, September 27 at 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall with John Evans, who will be giving lessons for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve their bidding and card play.

For fuller details and to register an interest, contact John on 01656 880372.

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